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BlackBerry President and CEO Thorsten Heins, right, and Rogers Communications president and CEO Nadir Mohamed show off their BlackBerry Z10 phones before presenting one to the first customer at the Rogers flagship store in downtown Toronto on Tuesday. For more on the new BlackBerry's retail debut, see page 15. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The cabbies we can't get off the road

Investigation. Many taxi drivers identified as a possible danger to the public escape with a few days of suspension

There is a taxi driver in Toronto convicted of assaulting a female passenger, threatening death and dangerous driving. He is still picking up fares — one of 255 Toronto cabbies whom the city has tried and failed to get off the road.

Among them are drivers convicted of stunt racing. Failing to stop for a school bus. Failing to remain at the scene of an accident. Multiple assault convictions. Drunk driving. Sexual assault.

A Torstar News Service investigation has found that of nearly 340 drivers who appealed the city's decision to refuse to grant or renew their taxi licences in the past five years, only 53 were denied. The majority of those who were already licensed were allowed to continue driving, usually as a result of a plea bargain made at a civilian appeals tribunal.

Torstar News Service also found that the city only checks a cab driver's criminal and driving record every four years. A senior official said the city is evaluating whether that is enough.

Many drivers who had been identified by the city as a possible danger to the public escaped with probation or a few days of suspension. Some had no conditions placed on their licence and all of this was done with very little public scrutiny.

Cab drivers are not employees but rather independent operators who have a licence to drive a taxi. They don't work for the cab companies but rather for plate and car owners who have a business agreement with a particular brokerage.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FOR THE FULL STORY, VISIT METRONEWS.CA

Way to break up the band

It's over for Kashmir's all-girl rock band after a Muslim cleric demands they quit PAGE 8

Joy Division in happier times

With his book, bassist Peter Hook wants to prove the band was capable of having fun PAGE 18

Holzer pots his 1st goal

On just the fourth shot of his NHL career, Korbinian leads the Leafs to a 3-2 victory PAGE 26

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Court battle

Sisters back at scene of alleged crime in Miami

Angelina, left, and Michele Mastrangelo TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Facing a slew of misdemeanour charges stemming from a heated Christmastime encounter with Miami Beach police after a night of bar-hopping, Toronto sisters Angelina and Michele Mastrangelo are scheduled to appear in a Miami-Dade County court Thursday.

The sisters, 24, plan to contest the charges that landed them in jail overnight — and prompted them to file a complaint against the Miami Beach Police Department over the insults, humiliation and bruises they say they suffered.

Both sisters are charged with resisting arrest without violence. Michele is also charged with disorderly intoxication and criminal mischief. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Child care

Ruling boosts working parents

Employers who wish to remain on the right side of Canada's human-rights laws must be willing to factor in the family obligations faced by their staff members, a recent court ruling has found.

A decision handed down by Justice Leonard Mandamin last week explicitly states that requests for child-care accommodations stem from genuine need and are not simply the product of lifestyle choices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

York Region. Murder suspect an elementary school teacher

The man charged with second-degree murder in connection with a Richmond Hill homicide was an active elementary school teacher on staff, Torstar News Service has learned.

Jonathon Ross, 36, was arrested in the early hours of Saturday after police were called to a Yonge Street condominium complex for unknown trouble. The officers discovered a deceased woman there.

Ross was a Grade 5 teacher at Corpus Christi CES near Yonge, north of Canyon Hill Avenue, less than a kilometre from Silverwoods Condominiums where the body was found.

"Mr. Ross is an employee of the board and he is a staff member at Corpus Christi, that is correct," said York Catholic District School Board spokesperson May Moore.

Moore said a letter was sent home to parents explaining Ross was "absent due to personal reasons" and a supply teacher familiar with his students would be returning to take over teaching duties.

Police are working to confirm the dead woman's identity before releasing any information regarding her name and age and said they had "cautiously" notified her family.

"We haven't definitively identified her and we're hopeful that we will either by the end of today or tomorrow at the conclusion of the post-mortem," said Det.-Sgt. John Braybrook with York Regional Police's homicide unit.

The post-mortem was ongoing Tuesday afternoon, Braybrook said.

Police said the victim was known to Ross.

He will next appear in court on Feb. 7. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Stunned reaction

- On social media, several teens who identified themselves as Ross's former students were shocked to hear of his arrest, alerting each other to the news.
- Ross previously taught Grade 6 at the school as late as the 2010-11 school year and was listed as an intermediate boys basketball coach in 2012.

Court sees video of cop's final moments

Kachkar trial. Accused's state of mind at issue after snowplow struck and killed Toronto sergeant in 2011

A video of a snowplow making a U-turn on Avenue Road was shown on Tuesday during the trial of the man accused of killing Toronto police Sgt. Ryan Russell. The video was taken from his cruiser's dashboard camera and showed the snowplow heading directly at him.

The video shows the cruiser reversing to avoid the snowplow, then stopping. But Russell cannot be seen leaving the vehicle or firing shots at the driver, Richard Kachkar.

A rocking cruiser and a splash of slush on its windscreen are the only visible signs that the snowplow had just clipped the driver's door while hitting Russell around 6:06 a.m. on Jan. 12, 2011.

"He's coming at me. Hold on," Russell tells police dispatch in a separate recording played for the jury.

After that, silence from Russell, as the dispatcher asks, "What's the location?"

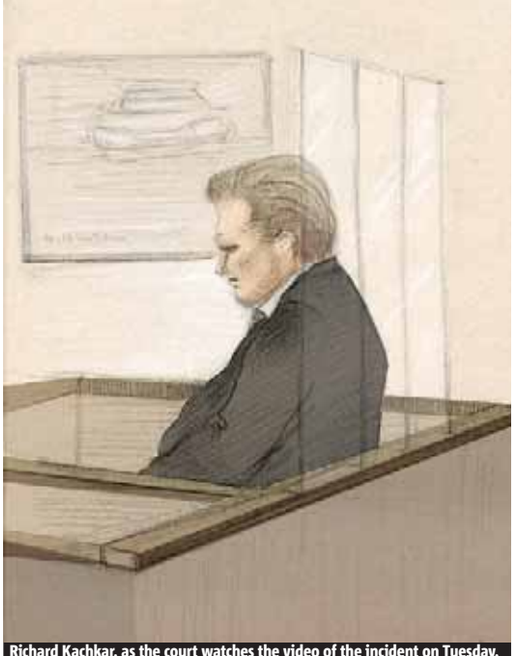
Russell's widow, Christine, sitting in court, fought tears as she heard her husband's last recorded words.

Michael Hau, concierge of an Avenue Road building where Kachkar smashed the snowplow into a ground-floor car dealership, testified the man looked either drunk or on drugs.

The trial continues Wednesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charges

- Richard Kachkar, 46, has pleaded not guilty in Ontario Superior Court to dangerous driving and first-degree murder after stealing the snowplow, damaging numerous cars and hitting Russell.
- There is no dispute Kachkar killed Russell. The only issue is his state of mind at the time.



Richard Kachkar, as the court watches the video of the incident on Tuesday.
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Autism needs unmet: Report

Groundbreaking study. An estimated one in 88 Ontarians is on the autism spectrum

Ontario youth and adults with autism-spectrum disorders often lead lonely, impoverished lives and struggle to find appropriate health and social supports, says a groundbreaking study released Tuesday.

Report backs experience

"For years we have been hearing from families about the gap around mental-health services, meaningful vocation, housing and daily activities."
Marg Spoelestra, of Autism Ontario

Most continue to rely on their families, who suffer in silence because they feel defeated and disempowered by provincial health and social-service systems that have abandoned them, says the report by Kevin Stoddart, director of Toronto's Redpath Centre.

"Youth and adults with autism-spectrum disorders and co-existing mental-health or medical needs are among the most marginalized people in Ontario's health and social-service system," said Stoddart, whose centre is one of the few in the province that offer diagnosis and counselling for this vulnerable group.

The survey of 480 Ontarians between the ages of 16 and 66 with autism-spectrum disorders is the first since 1991 and the largest ever in Canada to profile the experiences of this age group. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teresa Williams and daughter Evadne. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toddler's death. Accused mother found fit for trial

A woman accused of killing her two-year-old daughter inside their west Erin Mills townhouse has been deemed mentally fit to stand trial.

Teresa Amelia Williams, 24, who's charged with second-degree murder in the Jan. 1 death of her young daughter, Evadne Williams-Scott, was originally slated to appear in court Feb. 5 for an update on her 60-day psychiatric assessment.

However, The Mississauga News has reported she won't be back in court until March 6 after a doctor determined last week she was mentally fit for trial. Justice George Gage did, however, order that Williams remain at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

"Based on the doctor's assessment report, Ms. Williams was ruled fit to stand trial," said the woman's lawyer, Paul O'Marra. "However, because her fitness is precarious and may fluctuate over time, an order was made to keep her fit, and therefore she is ordered detained in a secured hospital setting until the completion of her trial."

Multiple sources say the young child suffered stab wounds and other "horrific" injuries.

There were concerns from both the Crown and defence that the accused wasn't mentally fit for trial.

During recent court appearances, Williams has sat through much of the proceedings with her eyes closed. During one appearance last month, she was visibly distraught and didn't respond to the judge's questions. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Craps, not crabs. New owner-to-be may make Captain John's a casino

Captain John's, at the foot of Yonge Street. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A Hamilton businessman hopes to tow Captain John's restaurant from Toronto's waterfront to Steel Town's and turn it into a casino or banquet facility.

Don Maga says he plans to meet with Toronto waterfront officials later this week and breathe new life into the rusting 91-metre-long floating restaurant, which has been shut down since the city shut off water to the ship in June 2012 and health officials ordered the restaurant closed.

"I'm going to resolve everything," was all Maga, a veteran of sales, marketing and product development, would say in a telephone interview from Hamilton Tuesday.

"The boat will be transferred over to my ownership next week.... I have a deal in place that I know will go."

Maga, who claims to have been involved in other entertainment ventures but refused to elaborate, wouldn't discuss what he plans to do about the more than $568,000 that "Captain" John Letnik owes in property taxes and lease payments.

Maga plans to have the five-level ship towed to dry dock and then spend millions in restoration. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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First-time home buyers are back

Recovering from 2012 sales slump.
Strong start to 2013 offers hope that the overheated GTA housing market isn't headed for a crash

Just a few weeks ago, the house on East York's Marlow Avenue would have looked like a simple starter home — two bedrooms and two bathrooms crammed onto a 17-by-93-foot lot, listed for $469,900.

But by Monday night, after the barn-shaped detached home sold for $525,000 in a flurry of eight competing offers, it became symbolic of something much bigger.

The first-time buyer is back.

"January can be a very volatile month. I'm usually struggling for buyers. But I cannot remember having this much business coming into the new year," says listing agent Carolyn Griffis of ReMax.

Mortgage brokers have also seen a surge since Christmas in would-be home buyers, especially first-time buyers, looking to get pre-approvals or to renew approvals that lapsed last fall and winter as they headed for the sidelines, waiting for the housing market to cool or crash.

Quoted

"January can be a very volatile month. I'm usually struggling for buyers. But I cannot remember having this much business coming into the new year."
Carolyn Griffis of ReMax

"There seems to be a lot of pent-up demand in the first-time buying community," says long-time mortgage broker Joe Sammut of Mortgage Architects.

"People seem to have let the dust settle (since the market started softening last summer) and they're saying, 'Maybe it's time to buy, now that we've had six months more to save up and see what is happening in the marketplace.'"

In fact, the Toronto Real Estate Board (TREB) is reporting a strong start to 2013. Home sales were down just 1.3 per cent in January over a year earlier, welcome news after six months of largely double-digit decreases. And prices were up 4.3 per cent last month across the GTA, according to figures released Tuesday by TREB.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

This home at 113 Marlow Ave. was listed for $469,900. When the detached barn-shaped house sold on Monday for $525,000, after a flurry of eight competing offers, it became symbolic of something much bigger. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Rambo the pit bull now gentle dog Ben

Another chance. A Mississauga pet slated to be put down gets second life in the Maritimes

Rambo, the alleged pit bull exiled to the East Coast from Mississauga back in 2008. CONTRIBUTED

After being exiled from Ontario years ago, Rambo is living as a Maritimer named Ben.

The dog was almost put down after being labelled an illegal pit bull in 2008. But after a 10-month stay at a Mississauga animal shelter, he was allowed to move instead.

Supporters of Ben, now confirmed to be part pit bull, say his peaceful life in New Brunswick proves Ontario's ban is unnecessary.

"I could see if it was a dog that was aggressive or had aggressive tendencies, but you could tell just by his demeanour ... he wasn't an aggressive dog," said Greg Best, who adopted the dog more than four years ago.

He's not ashamed of the dog's past but said he changed the pup's name for his safety.

"It was such a big deal ... we never really advertised it," he said.

Rambo was seized by an animal control officer after he escaped from then owner Gabriela Nowakowska, then 21, on Christmas Day, 2007, fleeing her backyard through an open gate.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Label pulled

The day the Muzak died

Concord, Ont.-based Mood Media announced Tuesday it was pulling labels Muzak — for decades, synonymous in pop culture with "elevator music" — and DMX into one company, simply called Mood.

That's not to say that the days of easy listening rock remixes at the dentist's office or classical music in the elevator are over. Mood will still provide music to businesses. It just won't be Muzak anymore.

Randal Rudniski, Mood's vice-president of investor relations, said it was a tough call to drop the brand name.

"It took a while to come to a final conclusion on which way to go. That was definitely part of the equation that people were very sensitive to internally, because it does have a legacy. It's got really strong brand awareness," Rudniski said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Big gift from big tennis star

Canada's top-ranked tennis player, Milos Raonic, made his foundation's first gift to five-year-old patient Claire Johnson, pictured, on Tuesday at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Centre in Toronto. The $70,000 gift will create the Milos Raonic Kids Agility Clinic at Holland Bloorview, which will nurture some of Canada's future paralympians. CONTRIBUTED

OLG chair's casino plan faces heat

The case for a downtown Toronto casino just got harder for OLG chair Paul Godfrey to make — now that the commercial property company he chairs has come out against it.

Three of the city's largest commercial property owners and developers — including RioCan, whose board Godfrey chairs — want Toronto to abandon plans for a downtown site, saying it would do more harm than good.

A letter sent to city manager Joe Pennachetti from the trio cautions against "taking a risk" and "potentially jeopardizing" the "success of our downtown."

"In our view, the risk of the potential negative impacts from developing a mega casino in the downtown outweighs the potential benefits," says the letter, which is signed by RioCan CEO Edward Sonshine, Allied Properties CEO Michael Emory and Diamond Corp. president Stephen Diamond.

As chair of OLG, Godfrey is not only the face of the organization, but he's also been the one leading the casino crusade.

Reached on Tuesday, Godfrey downplayed the awkward optics.

"Look, that's a management decision, not a board issue. (Sonshine) made it quite clear to me that that's what he thought, and that's fine," said Godfrey, who got a heads-up about the letter on Monday.

OLG chair Paul Godfrey
RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Kashmir's first all-girl rock band breaks up after threats

Fatwa. Mufti Bashiruddin Ahmad, the state-sponsored cleric, on Sunday ordered the girls to 'stop these activities'

The first all-girl rock band in Indian-controlled Kashmir has decided to disband after only one concert because of threats its teenage members received on social media and a demand from a top Muslim cleric that they stop performing.

The fate of Pragaash, which in Kashmiri means First Light, highlights the simmering tension between modernity and tradition in Muslim-majority Kashmir. Separatists criticized the band for what it said was "Western-style cultural waywardness."

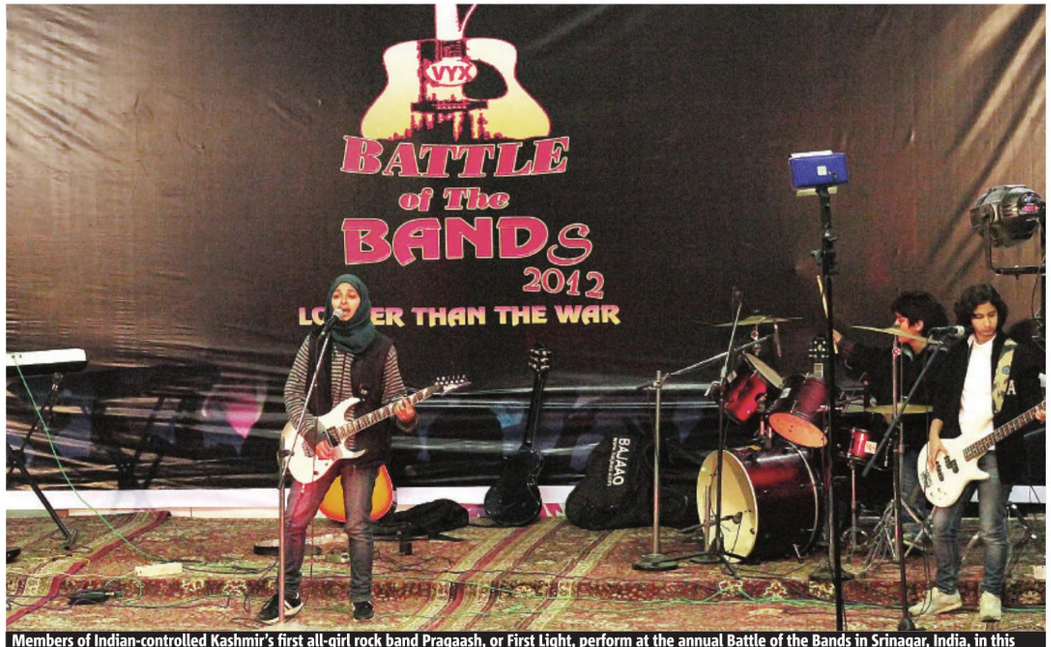
Adnan Mattoo, the rock group's music teacher and manager, said the three high school students who formed Pragaash — drummer Farah Deeba, bass guitarist Aneeqa Khalid, and singer and guitarist Noma Nazir — won't talk about their decision to disband and what led to it.

"First, the girls had decided to quit live performance due to an online hate campaign, and concentrate on making an album. But after an edict by the government's own cleric, these girls are saying goodbye to music," Mattoo said Tuesday.

Pragaash performed in public for the first time in December in Srinagar, the main city in Indian-controlled Kashmir. It won third place in an annual Battle of the Bands rock show organized by an Indian paramilitary force as part of a campaign to win hearts and minds in the region.

Soon after the show, Kashmiri pages on social networking sites like Facebook hotly debated the band. Some questioned whether the performance was appropriate in the Muslim-dominated society in Kashmir. Others raised broader questions on the Islamic approach to music and role of women in the society.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Members of Indian-controlled Kashmir's first all-girl rock band Pragaash, or First Light, perform at the annual Battle of the Bands in Srinagar, India, in this December 2012 photo. The band has decided to disband after only one concert because of threats its three teenage members received on social media and harsh responses from a top Muslim cleric and separatists, who criticized it as "Western-style cultural waywardness." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coptic pope criticizes Egypt's Islamist government

Pope Tawadros II greets well-wishers, not shown, after being named the 118th Coptic Pope in this file photo. EL SHOROUK NEWSPAPER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt's Coptic patriarch delivered a cautious but unusually sharp criticism of the nation's Islamist leadership in an interview on Tuesday, dismissing the new constitution as discriminatory and rounds of national dialogues sponsored by the president as meaningless.

Pope Tawadros II's dive into politics came as he tried to energize the spiritual solidarity of a demoralized community with a visit to a historic monastery that no Coptic pontiff has been to in decades because of security tensions in southern Egypt.

He joined the black-robed monks in a two-hour predawn prayer at the ancient Virgin Mary chapel in the al-Muharraq monastery, said to be on a site where the Virgin Mary took refuge with Jesus and her husband Joseph from Roman persecution.

Tawadros has taken an unusually vocal political activist stance since being enthroned in November as the spiritual leader of the Copts.

Tawadros was dismissive of a series of national dialogues that President Mohammed Morsi has been holding, ostensibly as a way to broaden decision-making in response to criticism of the concentration of power with the Muslim Brotherhood.

"We must and will actively take part in any national dialogue in which we see a benefit for the nation," Tawadros said. "But when we find that a dialogue ends before it starts and none of its results are implemented then we realize that it is not in the interest of the nation."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First visit

- **Christian community.** Tawadros' visit was the first by a Coptic pope in three decades to the 4th century al-Muharraq monastery in Assiut, which has one of the largest Christian communities of any of Egypt's 27 provinces.
- **Shenouda III.** An insurgency in the 1980s and 1990s kept his predecessor, Shenouda III, from visiting.

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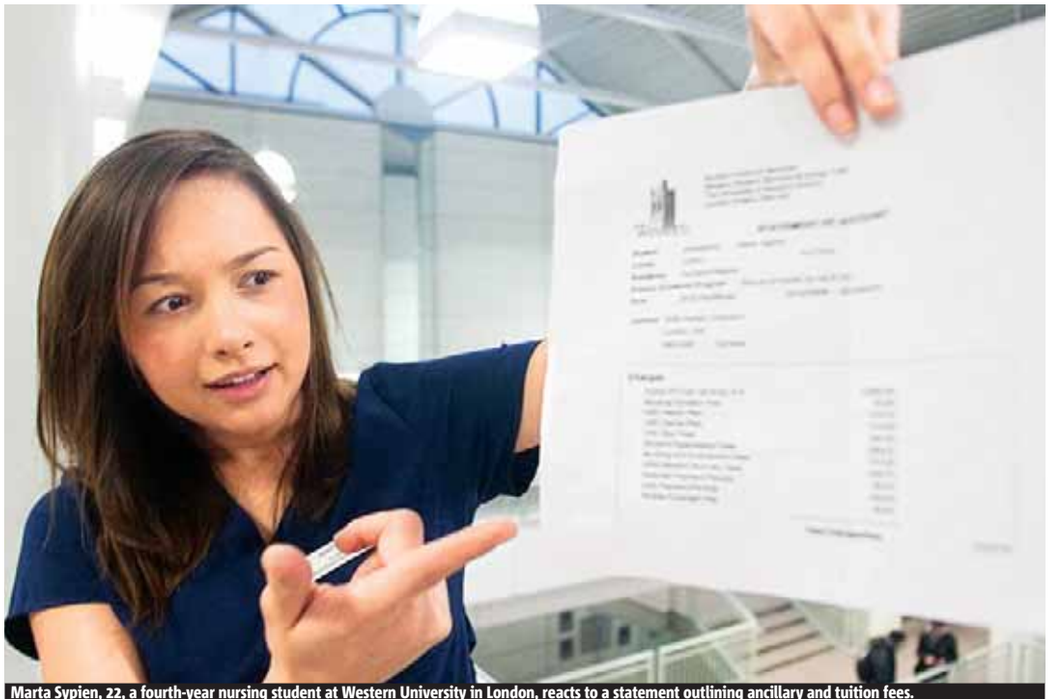


Marta Sypien, 22, a fourth-year nursing student at Western University in London, reacts to a statement outlining ancillary and tuition fees. The bill comes to more than $7,000 for a year, and that's before books, residence costs and a meal plan are factored in. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Part 2 of a three-part series. Tuition fees just scratch the surface of expenses for post-secondary education in Ontario

ANGELA MULLINS
Metro in London

Need a lab coat for conducting your chemistry experiments?

How about a locker for your trumpet, having your diploma mailed or, heck, maybe you just want to graduate?

It'll cost you.

Tuition is just the start of bills students face in the halls of learning. Ancillary fees for everything from student clubs to mandatory bus passes are adding to the thousands of dollars it costs just to get a foot in the door.

Ontario post-secondary students are paying an average of $875 in fees over and beyond tuition, Statistics Canada data for 2012-13 show. Average fees have more than doubled since the early 1990s, despite government policies that banned some fees and were intended to give students more of a voice in determining the added costs.

Fees are levied by both university administrations and student councils. Some are good — like those that go toward financial aid, student union buildings and programming. Others are questionable, say some students and groups advocating on their behalf.

"The introduction of all these ancillary fees is kind of a back-door way of increasing" tuition, says Michael Yam, a researcher at the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario.

The system is "sneaky" and not well regulated at times, but some students who have questioned specific actions have won challenges, Yam said.

Schools say they depend on fees to cover the gap between government funding and the actual cost of educating students.

"Universities can't just jack up fees for the sake of bringing more revenue in," said Bonnie Patterson, president of the Council of Ontario Universities. "If they go up, they are reflective of the costs of whatever service is being provided."

Fees, how they're regulated and what they buy vary widely across universities and individual programs. Universities negotiated deals with student governments years ago spelling out how and when students are to be consulted. Each agreement is different, which affects how things unfold at individual universities when increases are proposed.

By the same token, students at some schools may pay extra fees for things that other universities cover on their own, or don't even offer.

Rules introduced in the late 1980s and early 1990s prevent universities from collecting fees for things typically covered by tuition, such as testing. Now the province requires that fees cover only things that might be considered frills. These can range from class field trips to recreation centres.

In many cases, new fees come into play when professors themselves — or university departments as a whole — decide they want to enhance what's being taught in the classroom, Patterson said. Hands-on learning, for example, often comes with the cost of renting buses and burning gas. Universities simply don't have the money pay for those extras.

"It's true that the student may not know about new fees or increases from one year to the next," Patterson said. But, she added, that's not because administrators are trying to pull a fast one.

"Proposals still go through the university board, typically in March of each year. Often, they seem like very small amounts of money, but you spend an inordinate amount of time in discussion."

Fees, in essence, are "cost recovery," she said. "It's not about making a profit."

Q-and-A

Policies 'protect students': Ministry

The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities defended its record on ancillary fees in an email exchange with Metro:

Some student-advocate groups say the government isn't taking action when it receives reports of ancillary fees being instituted in contravention of the fee protocol. Is this an unfair accusation?

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities ensures that its policies to protect students are followed by all institutions. … Our ministry has acted quickly to correct for any irregularities that may have resulted from the improper application of ancillary fees.

For example, when student groups brought to our attention that an ancillary fee being charged at two universities was inconsistent with ministry policy, we investigated. This led to corrective measures and the fees were reversed.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Exclusively online

What do you think of ancillary fees? Are they a cash grab for universities, or part of the economic reality of post-secondary education? Have your say at metronews.ca.

Speaking out. Students lobby for new fee protocol

Metro asked Rylan Kinnon, executive director of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, for the student perspective on ancillary fees. Here's what he said in an email (responses have been edited for space):

In your opinion, which ancillary fees need reworking?

The first types of ancillary fee that our students have identified as being obviously unfair are graduation fees. Essentially, students who have already paid tuition and other fees to cover the cost of their degree are being asked to pay an additional fee to have their work recognized and be awarded a degree.

Another ancillary fee that we are concerned with is credit-transfer fees. These are charged in two ways, for assessment and on a per-credit basis. For example, students hoping to transfer to University of Toronto Mississauga or University of Toronto Scarborough must pay a $30 assessment fee to get in, which is in addition to the application fees they have paid to the Ontario University Application Centre to make the transfer in the first place. These fees hinder student mobility, and seem excessive when they are in addition to application fees.

Students also have concerns with the access copyright fee that was announced last year. Particularly, there have been some concerns that students are paying not only for materials that they use, but also for academic materials used for research, administration and advocacy. Students should only be charged copyright fees for the materials they use directly. Secondly, some concerns have been noted that some of what the fees cover are unnecessary, as these materials could be obtained in other ways and in some instances through open-access resources.

What actions are you taking to improve the situation?

We have provided some recommendations to the government on areas where Ontario's ancillary fee protocol can be clarified to better serve students and ensure that students are consulted on new fees.

We have asked that the government make changes to the ancillary-fee protocol to prohibit the charging of graduation fees.

We have also recommended that the ancillary-fee protocol be changed to (make) clear that evaluation is a tuition-related fee and students cannot be expected to pay for it separately.

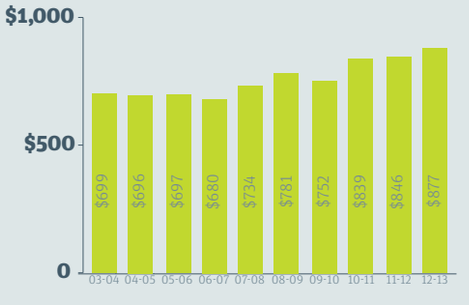
JOHN MATISZ/METRO IN LONDON

Tomorrow

On Thursday, we examine ways for students to save money.

Contest: Do you have any creative ideas on how students can save? Let us know on Twitter (@twitter.com/metrotoronto) or at reader@metronews.ca and you could win a prize pack.

Average ancillary fees paid by Ontario university students



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

Armed gang rapes 6 tourists in Mexico

Acapulco. Victims receiving treatment after five masked men broke into a beach house rented by Spanish tourists

Six Spanish tourists were raped by a gang of armed, masked men in the Mexican resort of Acapulco, the latest chapter of violence that has tarnished the once-glamorous Pacific Coast resort.

The vicious, hours-long attack occurred before dawn on Monday at a house that six Spanish men, six Spanish women and a Mexican woman had rented on a quiet, idyllic stretch of beach on the outskirts of Acapulco.

The attackers gained access to the house because two of the Spaniards were in the yard and apparently were forced to open the door, Acapulco Mayor Luis Walton said at a press conference late Monday.

The five attackers burst into the house and held the group at gunpoint, he said. They tied up the six men with phone cords and bathing suit straps and then raped the six Spanish women. The Mexican woman was not raped.

The attack began about two hours after midnight on Monday and the victims were only able to report the crime five hours later, at nearly 7 a.m.

The once-glittering resort that attracted movie stars and celebrities in the '50s and '60s has been battered by years of drug-related gang killings and extortions, but except for very few incidents, the violence has not touched tourists.

Mexico's Foreign Relations Department issued a statement saying it regretted the attack, and suggested it was not drug-cartel-related.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police work to obtain fingerprints on a door at the home where masked men broke in, in Acapulco, Mexico, Tuesday. BERNANDINO HERNANDEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Voting rights. Obama prepares for new fight with Republicans

There's a new battle looming between Republicans and Democrats in the U.S. capital, and this one doesn't have anything to do with guns, immigration or debt reduction — it's about voting rights.

U.S. President Barack Obama and Democratic leaders want to make voting easier for Americans as several recent studies suggest long lineups at ballot boxes and onerous voter-registration procedures cost the Democrats hundreds of thousands of votes in November — particularly among African-Americans and Hispanics.

Obama has been signalling his intentions since election night, when he made mention of the long queues to vote and intoned: "We have to fix that." He reiterated that sentiment in his second inaugural address two weeks ago.

"Our journey is not complete until no citizen is forced to wait for hours to exercise the right to vote," he said.

Congressional Democrats are behind him. They have already tabled bills that would require states to provide online voter registration and provide for at least 15 days of early voting.

Those bills aren't likely to pass, however, given that Republicans control the House of Representatives.

Voting rights are in the national spotlight just as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to hear a challenge to the 1965 Voting Rights Act, legislation that was passed at the height of the civil-rights movement to prevent African-Americans from being denied the right to vote in the South.

U.S. President Barack Obama
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Officials in Alabama say some of the act's provisions unfairly burden them by requiring them to get federal approval before making any changes to their election procedures.

Civil-liberties watchdogs point out those changes often include stricter voter ID requirements that can serve to disenfranchise minorities and the poor — many of them Democratic voters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accident

2 teens recovering after losing fingers in tug-of-war game

Two teenagers whose fingers were severed during a tug-of-war game at a California high school were recovering on Tuesday, but it was unclear whether doctors were able to reattach the digits.

The boy and girl, both under age 18, had stable vital signs after undergoing hours of surgery, Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center spokeswoman Rosa Sacca said.

Sacca said she could not release any information on whether surgeons were able to reattach the fingers.

They were participating in a lunchtime tug-of-war on Monday during a Spirit Week celebration at South El Monte High School when they were injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian believed to be behind Bulgarian bus bombing: Baird

Dual citizen. Suspect in July attack lived in Lebanon but entered with Canadian passport

A bus is moved from the airport in Burgas, Bulgaria, after an attack on vacationing Israelis last July. IMPACT PRESS GROUP FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Canadian "dual national" living in Lebanon is believed to be involved in the deadly bus bombing in Bulgaria last July, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird confirmed Tuesday.

But key questions remained unanswered as Canada coped with the second allegation by a foreign government in recent weeks that Canadians took part in terrorist attacks abroad.

"This is not a resident of Canada. It's a dual national who I am told resides in Lebanon," Baird told a news conference on Parliament Hill.

"I couldn't even tell you the last time this person was in Canada," he said, adding that the suspect is still at large.

The figure entered Bulgaria with a Canadian passport and is believed to be linked to Hezbollah, the Shiite militant group and political party.

The attack killed five Israelis and their Bulgarian driver.

Tuesday's disclosure comes as Ottawa has yet to corroborate a claim by Algeria that at least one Canadian took part in a deadly attack on a Saharan gas plant last month.

"We've had a more robust engagement with Bulgaria, and they provided more information," said Baird. "The situation in Algeria is just completely different. We don't even have a name."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

They got their answer

British lawmakers on Tuesday voted overwhelmingly in favour of a bill to legalize same-sex marriage championed by Prime Minister David Cameron, despite strong opposition from within his Conservative Party. The bill must still pass a vote in the House of Lords. DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Provincial partners

Sask. premier calls Que. a 'distraction' on health council

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall says it's not surprising that Quebec has pulled out of a national health-care committee set up by the provinces.

"Quebec has been more of a distraction at this table than a constructive partner," Wall, co-chair of the committee, said Tuesday in an email to The Canadian Press. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Terrorism

U.S. freer than thought to kill citizens abroad

An unclassified memo reveals that the Obama administration has had more lenient rules than publicly known for when drones can be launched to kill U.S. citizens working abroad with terrorists.

The government does not need evidence that a specific attack is imminent, only that the suspect is involved in plotting.

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We recognize that both men and women experience androgenic alopecia (AGA, or male / female pattern baldness) and have made some improvements to the original formulation based on the latest science to address their specific needs. You will notice that we now have additional complementary (Health Canada Approved) health claims on each product.

How does Bio-Fen® PLUS work?

We are bringing you two new products with **double** the number of capsules and **triple** the number of health claims for men and **four times** the number of health claims for women.

As in the previous formulation, the fenugreek seed extract in both new formulas reduces excess blood lipid levels (hyperlipidemia). Fenugreek contains β-sitosterol, an active plant sterol, which has been shown to inhibit 5-alpha-reductase activity – the enzyme responsible for converting excess testosterone to *DHT* (which is the primary molecule that causes hair loss). The SDG (secoisolariciresinol diglucoside) from flax lignans in both formulas also decreases excess cholesterol - the building block of testosterone. Based on new research on the rate of metabolism of SDG in flax lignans (8-12 hours on average), the dosage in both products has been revised from once a day to twice a day for optimum results.

Twice the Strength! Twice the Power!

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men:

As before, the saw palmetto extract inhibits the enzyme 5-alpha reductase, and this action slows down the conversion of testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (or DHT) – the overabundance of which causes the miniaturization of hair follicles. This activity of the saw palmetto also helps to relieve the urinary symptoms of mild to moderate BPH for men.

The saw palmetto that originally was an extract standardized to 45% free fatty acids, esters, and sterols while the new formula is a 4:1 extract to support the BPH claim. The product still contains these molecules for hair loss, but they are now at proprietary amounts based on our research so that the competition cannot duplicate our formula.

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men will also help to:

- ***Relieve the urologic symptoms associated with mild to moderate benign prostatic hyperplasia - BPH** (e.g. weak urine flow, incomplete voiding, frequent daytime and night time urination).*
- ***Reduce elevated blood lipid levels / hyperlipidemia.***

Bio-Fen® Plus for Women

The women's formula is almost the same as the men's formula. The mechanisms and results for the women formula is the same. The only difference is it contains silicon and iron instead of saw palmetto. Silicon has been shown to contribute to hair shaft strength and thus healthy hair growth. It also contains iron which helps prevent iron deficiency. A number of studies have related sub-clinical iron deficiency in women to diffuse hair loss/alopecia.

The increased amount of SDG and other revisions to the regulations allow us to make some additional health claims for *Bio-Fen® Plus for Women.*

Bio-Fen® Plus for Women will also help to:

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- ***Prevent iron deficiency.***
- ***Metabolize carbohydrates, fats and proteins.***

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Bio-Fen® Plus for Men capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or the rate of hair loss is decreased. Anyone experiencing new growth should see it within four months. In some people the original pigmentation may come back. Once you stop completely your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started. However, some people may be able to go with a lower maintenance dose.

What is the quality of Bio-Fen® Plus for Men?

Bio-Fen® Plus for Men is manufactured in Canada according to quality assurance specifications called Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and the finished product prior to sale.

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DeShawn, Dylan, Dragan.
Google is racially profiling us by our names: Study

A Harvard University study has found that there is "significant discrimination" in the way advertisements are placed in Google searches depending on whether a person's name is believed to be white or black.

Names such as DeShawn, Darnell and Jermaine generated ads suggestive of an arrest in 81 to 86 per cent of name searches on one website and 92 to 95 per cent on the other, the study found. The two websites studied were Google.com and Reuters.com.

A black-identifying name was 25 per cent more likely to get an advertisement prompting viewers to search for their criminal record, according to study author Prof. Latanya Sweeney. Meanwhile, those names that were found to be linked to white people, such as Geoffrey, Jill and Emma generated more neutral copy.

"AdWords does not conduct any racial profiling," a Google spokesperson said in response. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Googling the author

A search for Latanya Sweeney, the study's author, yielded ads suggestive of arrests.

- "I don't have an arrest record, which made this so interesting," Sweeney, who is black, said.

Angels After Dark

B.C. teen says escort agency targeted her BFFs

An escort agency in Kamloops, B.C., is under fire over allegations it was recruiting teenage girls on Facebook.

A 17-year-old girl says she and several of her friends were contacted by Angels After Dark, which boasts the hottest escorts in Kamloops.

The girl says when her friends responded, the agency asked if they were underage. When they said yes, the agency asked if they had any legally aged friends who wanted to make up to $500 a day. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Why did she unfriend me? Was it all the baby photos?

Facebook foes.
Online rejection hits vulnerable users hard, new study says

Clicking the "Unfriend" tool on Facebook may lead to an "unfriending" in real life. KIERON MONKS/METRO WORLD NEWS

If you want to trim your list of Facebook contacts, think twice before hitting "unfriend." That person may never forgive you, according to a new academic study.

Around 40 per cent of people would avoid seeing someone in real life that had unfriended them, with a further 10 per cent unsure. A higher ratio of women said they would avoid contact than men. The study also found the likeliest determining factor for a decision to avoid was if the unfriending had been discussed with other people.

"People think social networks are just for fun," said study author Christopher Sibona, a PhD student at the University of Colorado Denver Business School. "But the study makes clear that unfriending is meaningful and has important psychological consequences for those to whom it occurs."

Social networks are especially attractive to narcissists and people with low self-esteem, but they are vulnerable. "Unfriending could damage people with anxiety and confidence issues," Dr. Gregory Webster, psychologist and social media expert of the University of Florida, told Metro. "These networks can distort reality, particularly if you don't have much of a social life in the real world."

Sibona had also researched the causes of unfriending in a 2010 study. Leading factors were "frequent, unimportant posts," such as on children or family, and controversial posts on politics or religion. But Webster believes unfriending is also for "public presentation and wanting to appear very selective about our social set."

Given the looser ties of virtual friendships, almost every user faces being unfriended at some point. If that is too much to take, Twitter may be a better choice with the milder unfollow less likely to cause trauma.

KIERON MONKS/METRO WORLD NEWS

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Consumers get their paws on Z10

Retail debut. First day of sales doesn't match mania around iPhone launches, but numbers are 'quite robust'

There weren't any lineups around the block, but Canadians finally had a chance to get their hands on the new BlackBerry smartphone Tuesday as the device went on sale across the country.

The company behind the once-dominant phone joined with Rogers Communications to hold a media event in downtown Toronto, where a small number of customers who pre-ordered the BlackBerry Z10 activated their devices in front of the cameras.

But the fanfare around first day of sales paled in comparison to Apple's iPhone launches, when sometimes hundreds of people wait outside stores to be among the first to own the latest model.

"Twelve years with the same company and I haven't switched," said Joseph Santos, a professed BlackBerry loyalist, who works as an IT manager in Toronto. "Being the head of an IT department, there was a lot of pressure to go to an Android phone. I kind of fought them off. This is my last stand here."

The BlackBerry launch comes after several delays left longtime fans either sticking with their older phones or switching to a competitor's phone. The new device is expected to sell for around $150 on a three-year contract. Koodo is selling it without a contract for $550.

Albert Lee, a spokesman for Bell, could not provide any preliminary sales statistics, but did say the number of pre-orders the company has seen for the Z10 "were higher than any other BB (BlackBerry) before."

"We're seeing intense interest today — sales are quite robust," Lee said in an email.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Peter Rosenthal, right, talks with sales representative Dan Marsan about his new BlackBerry Z10 at a Rogers store in Montreal on Tuesday during the Canadian launch of the device. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Environmental audit. Resource boom is outstripping Canada's eco safeguards, watchdog finds

Canada's aggressive pursuit of resource development is exposing the country to heightened environmental and financial risks that are not being properly handled by federal regulators, a new audit says.

In his final report to Parliament after five years on the job, Scott Vaughan — Canada's commissioner of the environment and sustainable development — said government is not keeping sufficient tabs on mining in the North, offshore drilling in the Atlantic and hydraulic fracturing in hundreds of thousands of shale gas wells sprouting up across the country.

Nor are regulators equipped to deal with major oil spills or an expected 300 per cent increase in tanker traffic off the West Coast, the report states.

"We know that there's a boom in natural resources in this country. I think what we need now ... is a boom in environmental protection in this country as well," Vaughan said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

There "are some serious questions about the federal capacity to safeguard Canada's environment."

Scott Vaughan, Canada's commissioner of the environment and sustainable development

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.38¢ (+0.24¢)

TSX 12,745.65 (+28.02)

OIL $96.64 US (+47¢)

GOLD $1,673.50 US (-$2.90)

Natural gas: $3.40 US (+8¢)
Dow Jones: 13,979.30 (+99.22)

Burger scandal

Irish PM gets on his high horse

Ireland's prime minister Enda Kenny says the latest finding of horsemeat in products labelled as Polish beef is harming Ireland's reputation as an exporter of high-quality meat products. Last month, DNA tests on dozens of beef burger brands found some contained horse as a substantial ingredient. Irish investigators claim to have pinned the problem on Polish offcuts imported to Ireland for use as filler in factory-made burger patties.

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J.J. ABRAMS IS A NEW HOPE FOR STAR WARS

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Here's an idea:

The world is a dream and the dreamer is a guy named J.J. Abrams.

If you want proof, just about everything you watch starts in the head of J.J. Abrams.

Here's just a partial list: TV: Felicity, Alias, Lost, Fringe, Person of Interest and Revolution.

Movies: Super 8, Cloverfield, Mission Impossible, the reboot of the Star Trek franchise and now the reboot of the Star Wars franchise.

Episode VII

J.J. Abrams is the Steven Spielberg AND the George Lucas of the second decade of the 21st century.

J.J. Abrams is the Steven Spielberg AND the George Lucas of the second decade of the 21st century. He's the guy who is personally responsible for keeping Luke Skywalker and Captain Kirk alive and vital.

And also keeping Hollywood alive and vital.

While other directors and producers have been overtaken by a geriatric psychosis that causes them to produce the same Bruce Willis, Sylvester Stallone or Arnold Schwarzenegger movie over and over and over again to empty theatres, Abrams is busily luring the multichannel generation back into the theatre with the consummate skills of a master showman. Not-your-father's Star Trek became relevant and sexy all over again under Abrams' direction and, not incidentally, grossed $385 million worldwide.

Disney, which paid Lucas $4 billion for the Star Wars franchise, is betting that the force remains strong with this one, and announced recently that Abrams will direct Star Wars Episode VII, which finally picks up where Luke, Han Solo, Princess Leia and all the Wookies, Ewoks and Jedi Knights left it long, long ago and far, far away, before Lucas the evil revisionist spoiled the whole thing with Jar Jar Binks.

If you don't think Jar Jar Binks was enough to bring down the franchise, you didn't read the reviews of his first appearance in Episode I: The Phantom Menace. One described Jar Jar as a "Rastafarian Stepin Fetchit on platform hoofs, crossed annoyingly with Butterfly McQueen."

It will be interesting to see if Jar Jar Binks survives to stumble again in Episode VII, which is scheduled to be released in 2015. Or thereabouts. Meanwhile, Abrams is keeping all those Mission Impossible and Star Trek balls in the air.

Not everyone is happy that J.J. Abrams has been given the keys to all their favourite franchises. The Twitterverse is buzzing: one tweeter alleges that J.J. Abrams' name is actually Jar Jar (for the record, it's Jeffrey Jacob) and another calls it "genre bogarting." But there is hope.

"As long as J.J. Abrams avoids Severe Blunt Force Trauma to the Head, these new Star Wars films will be WAY better than the last ones," says one fan who, you have to admit, has a way with 140 characters.

Speaking of franchises, I wonder if J.J. Abrams has met J.K Rowling…

J.J. Abrams may prove his critics wrong. GETTY IMAGES

The way the cookie crumbles

JOCHEN LUEBKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Impostor strikes again

Stolen cookie sculpture found on horse's neck

German police have recovered a cookie sculpture that may have been stolen by someone impersonating the Cookie Monster.

Police spokeswoman Jacobe Heers says the 20-kilogram gilded sculpture was found Tuesday morning outside the Leibniz University in Hannover, Germany.

It was hanging from the neck of a horse sculpture with a red ribbon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Open, Sesame

'Cookie Monster' demands donations

The century-old cookie was reported stolen last month from the office of a bakery company in Hannover.

A local newspaper later received a letter demanding cookies be delivered to children at a hospital. The paper also received a picture of someone dressed like Sesame Street's Cookie Monster holding what appeared to be the stolen cookie.

The Bahlsen company promised a reward of 52,000 packets of cookies for a charitable cause if their emblem turned up. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bahlsen CEO Werner Michael Bahlsen appealed to the extortionists to return the stolen cookie logo on Jan. 30.
JOCHEN LUEBKE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Inset: A statue on the facade of the cookie maker before and after the sculpture was stolen. CONTRIBUTED

Bahlsen already gives

Biscuit bandit still on the lam

No suspect has been apprehended.

"I have the cookie! And you want it," the ransom note reads. "You must give all the children milk chocolate cookies on one day in February — and not dark chocolate." It's signed "Cookie Monster."

A spokesperson for the children's hospital called the prank blackmail, adding that Bahlsen already does so much for the hospital and coercion is not necessary.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

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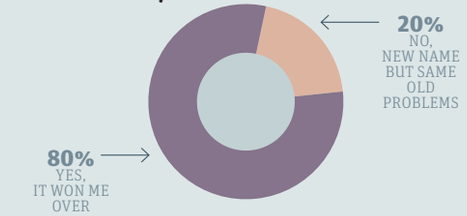
Will the BB10 save BlackBerry (formerly known as RIM)?



Twitter

@_FazalSA: Mumford & Sons, Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros, and The Vaccines are playing at a festival in Simcoe this summer. I gotta go o_O

@DalekMetal: This MUMFORD & SONS show in SIMCOE, ONTARIO will be the biggest event since Rob Blake brought home the Stanley Cup he won w/ Colorado @NHL

@VazzzUppp: Wow a huge billboard in toronto advertising Drakes new song -.-

@AnnLouiseWinter: #Rogers about to open! Lineup at Albion Centre Mall Toronto! #Z10 today!!!

@Alexandros9900: Lots of stores in #Toronto sold out of #BlackBerry10 in the first day. Looks like there's something to the #Z10 afterall ;)

metro

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Ceremony

Harvard honours Sutherland

Golden-Globe-winning actor Kiefer Sutherland has been named Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

Sutherland will be roasted and receive his ceremonial pudding pot at a ceremony scheduled for Friday. The 46-year-old Sutherland has been in dozens of films but is perhaps best known for his role as Jack Bauer in the television series 24, for which he won Golden Globe and Primetime Emmy awards. He is currently starring in the television show Touch.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kiefer Sutherland . GETTY IMAGES

Showtime

Damon to play parody of himself

Matt Damon is becoming a TV comedy regular.

Showtime said Monday that Damon will guest star next week on House of Lies. He'll play what the channel called a "maniacal megastar" version of himself.

Last month, Damon staged a mock takeover of Jimmy Kimmel's ABC talk show, tying Kimmel to a chair and acting as host for a night.

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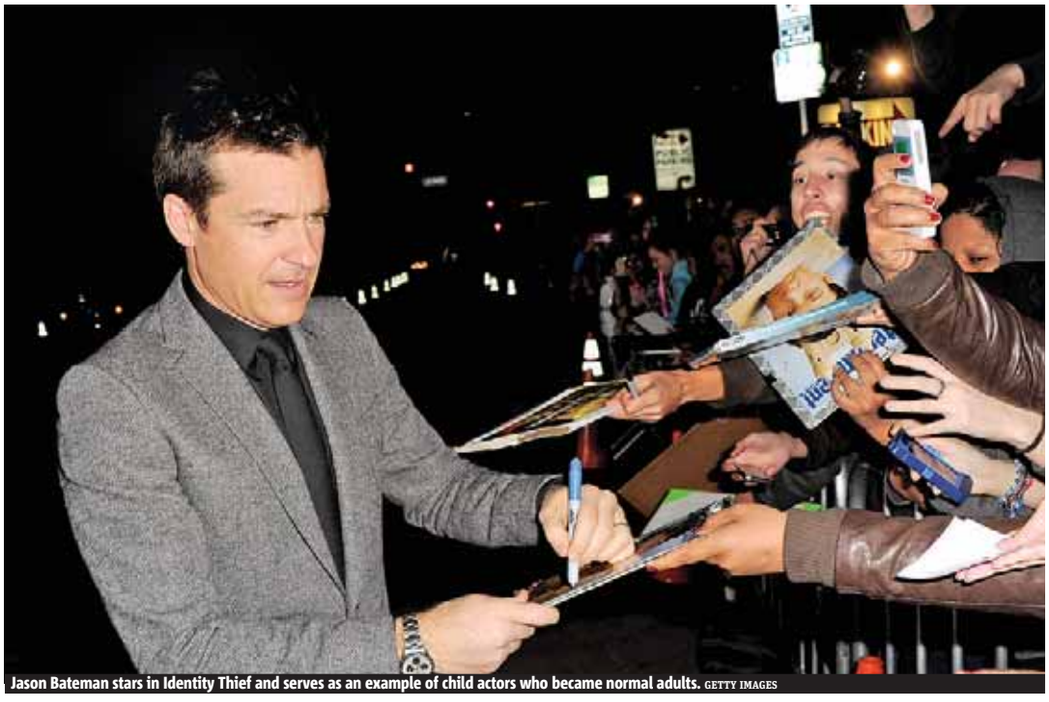

Jason Bateman stars in Identity Thief and serves as an example of child actors who became normal adults. GETTY IMAGES

Finding an adult Identity

Child actors. A look at those, including Jason Bateman of Identity Thief, who bucked the trend and became successful adult actors

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

It's a pop culture cliché that all child actors grow up to become the subject of tragic tabloid stories. Sure, adulthood was not kind to Gary Coleman or Jodie Sweetin (although she does earn a point or two for the title of her tell-all, unSweetined), but there are dozens of kid actors who grew up to have fulfilling careers in Hollywood.

She's no Lindsay Lohan

"I don't know why people think child actresses in particular are screwed up."

Jodie Foster
Talking about the perception of child actors.

Jason Bateman is one of the lucky ones who made the transition to adult roles with ease. At 12 he debuted as James Ingalls on Little House on the Prairie and, dozens of credits later, this weekend stars in Identity Thief opposite comedy it-girl Melissa McCarthy.

The longevity of his career is dwarfed by Jodie Foster, whose 47 years on screen have seen her do everything from Disney movies like Freaky Friday to playing an underage prostitute in Taxi Driver to winning Oscars for The Accused and The Silence of the Lambs.

"I don't know why people think child actresses in particular are screwed up," she says. "I see kids everywhere who are totally bored. I've never been bored a day in my life."

Mickey Rooney's cameo appearance in The Muppets marked 10 decades of acting in movies. He was just a year-and-a-half old when he began performing in his parent's vaudeville act and made his first film just a few years later, playing Mickey McGuire in a series of short films. The audition breakdown requested a young boy with dark hair, so Mickey's mom rubbed burnt cork to his scalp to colour his blonde hair.

Long before Elijah Wood donned huge hairy feet and went off in search of the magical ring in Lord of the Rings, he kept busy as a child actor in movies like Internal Affairs and Radio Flyer.

It's hard to top winning an Oscar at age 11, but Anna Paquin has gone on to distinguish herself in indie hits like The Squid and The Whale and on television in True Blood. And speaking of Oscars, one of this year's best actor nominees, Joaquin Phoenix, made his debut at age eight, appearing on an episode of Seven Brides For Seven Brothers with his brother River.

"There are kids who get on a BMX bike when they're eight and they go, 'Whoa, this is incredible' and grow up to do extreme sports," he said. "It's the same for me with acting."

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Highlighting their Joy, despite their Division

New book. Peter Hook's Unknown Pleasures looks at the highs and lows of the reclusive Joy Division

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

Joy Division went to great lengths to keep the public in the dark during their brief career as a band. The influential goth rock band from Manchester, U.K., trafficked in album artwork that never featured their name, much less the faces of members, and on the rare occasions they granted interviews, their answers were usually evasive or flippant. The only thing for listeners to go on was the music, similarly dark, mysterious and cold. Bassist Peter Hook wants to change all of that with his new book, Unknown Pleasures: Inside Joy Division.

"I was a little bit wary of debunking all the myths," admits Hook. "I just got sick of reading books about Joy Division by people who weren't there, and they always seem to focus on the dark and mysterious intensity of Joy Division, which is something that whilst I appreciate, I can't say that I recognize it completely."

Unknown Pleasures is rife with demystifying tales of a young band on tour for the first time. At one point singer Ian Curtis, whose brooding image would later feature heavily into goth iconography, is giggling at glimpsing a female changing backstage.

The band constantly played practical jokes on one another and on other bands — Curtis calls his bandmates "sneaky, japing tossers."

But while Hook's book revels in fun memories and rides the narrative arc of a band finding their unique identity, the author also comes to terms with signs he should have picked up on that Curtis was in trouble.

On a roller-coaster of prescription drugs to treat his epilepsy, Curtis killed himself on a Saturday night when the band were about to embark on their first U.S. tour that Monday.

"He must have gotten to the point on Saturday night, for some reason that none of us will ever know, that he decided that (he) couldn't cope anymore," says Hook. "I was with him on Friday and he was absolutely f—ing fine."

Peter Hook has decided to speak to the rumours about Joy Division in his new book, Unknown Pleasures: Inside Joy Division. GETTY IMAGES

Insight at a later date

Hook remarks on page 314 of Unknown Pleasures that he should have called the memoir, He Said He Was All Right So We Carried On, because whenever the band questioned Ian Curtis about his well-being, he would rebuff them and insist they play whatever gig was next.

- **Quote.** "He was literally going up and down like a bride's nightie," says Hook. "They took Ian's prescriptions for his drugs to a modern day epilepsy specialist, and the specialist looked at the prescriptions and said, 'This was guaranteed to kill him.'"

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Selena Gomez ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Bible study group newest Hollywood hotspot?

Apparently the hottest new young Hollywood hangout isn't a nightclub but a weekly bible study group — which Selena Gomez, Vanessa Hudgens and 90210 star Matt Lanter have reportedly been attending, according to Us Weekly. Gomez has even brought ex-boyfriend Justin Bieber to the group, which meets monthly at a Beverly Hills hotel.

"Justin's come in before and his mom, Pattie, is a regular," a source says. The group is reportedly organized by E! correspondent Jason Kennedy.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Wallis' puppy purses make a splash on red carpet

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

It's a very slow gossip day and honestly, if I have to write one more thing about the feud between Brandi Glanville and LeAnn Rimes, I'm going to pack up my things and move to Vermont where I will spend the rest of my days knitting and raising cattle and never reading another Us Weekly ever again. Or raising Budweiser Clydesdales. Whichever.

So, today's column will be about something totally rad and worth highlighting: The awesomeness that is Oscar nominee Quvenzhané Wallis' puppy purses.

Wallis owns 20 of the purses, designed by Poochie & Co., and they've been a mainstay on the red carpet for the nine-year-old actress. "That's my signature," she told Ellen DeGeneres about rocking the accessory time and time again. And yes, expect to see one pop up (pup up?) at the Oscars. When asked by Jay Leno on The Tonight Show who she'll be taking to the awards ceremony, she held up her puppy purse and said, "This and my mom."

Cute, right? In Hollywood, where we force our girls to grow up much too quickly, it's nice to see a little girl act like a little girl. And carry a mass-produced purse that looks like a little dog instead of, you know, Gucci. You go, Quvenzhané Wallis.

Trump sues Maher for $5 million

Donald Trump

Donald Trump is suing Bill Maher for $5 million over a charity wager, according to E! News. Maher reportedly agreed to donate that amount to charity if Trump could prove — by producing a birth certificate — that he was not the child of an orangutan. Maher made the offer during a visit to The Tonight Show after Trump infamously made a similar $5 million charity donation offer to Barack Obama that was widely criticized.

Twitter

@ShiaLaBeouf
how are you guys doing?

@JoshRadnor
Pretending like I don't like 'Peter, Paul, & Mary' is exhausting.

@Bitchuation
When there is a sign posted in a bar that says WE ID ALL GUESTS and they don't ID you, is that bad?

@SarahKSilverman
Oh Jesus I just woke up did Beyonce win?

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You've been camping out in the library studying for weeks and the thought of writing one more assignment makes you want to hurl your Easy Mac 'n Cheese. Fear not! Spring break is right around the corner, and whether you long for the beach, slopes or partying like it's ... er, 2013, here's the top five hot spots crawling with students who, like you, are willing to sacrifice a few brain cells for a week of fun.

MAE BOWRING
life@metronews.ca

5 Spring break spots

VLITVINOV/FLICKR

Daytona Beach, Fla.

White sand beaches, warm weather and partying around the clock awaits students who want to let loose. The hotels cater to budget-conscious students so you can have a week of fun in the sun without dipping too much into your student loan.
Good if: You want the classic spring break experience.
Bad if: You want to feel rested when you get back.

Mont Tremblant, Que.

If you daydream in philosophy class about carving through fresh powder, then make your way to this popular ski city. Busloads of students will be doing the same, making the nightlife in the village a can't-miss during spring break. Think you'll break your neck on the slopes? Try dogsledding or tubing.
Good if: You want to cuddle up with a ski bunny at night.
Bad if: You underdress and get frostbite.

TREMBLANT PHOTOS/FLICKR

New Orleans

It's a gritty city that celebrates sin. February is Mardi Gras month and depending on when you arrive, the French Quarter will be bustling with parties so wild that you'll be repeating stories of that "amazing spring break" well into your golden years. New Orleans is a safe city as long as you stick to the highly populated areas.
Good if: You're into voodoo.
Bad if: Parades and scantily clad women scare you.

CLETCH/FLICKR

GPOO/FLICKR

Montreal

Students looking for more of a cosmopolitan experience will find it in the historically rich and charming streets of Montreal. It may not be 30 C and sunny, but there's literally hundreds of restaurants to cosy up in with some comfort food when you're not busy exploring an art gallery or boutique.
Good if: You're underage because the legal drinking age is 18.
Bad if: You hate winter.

Cancun, Mexico

This list would lack credibility if it didn't include the sun and booze-soaked experience that is Cancun. The main strip has student-friendly hotels and the glorious weather makes lounging by the pool the obvious thing to do during the day. The exciting nightlife attracts people from all over North America and Cancun is safe for travellers. But like all party towns, it's wise to stay with your friends at all times.
Good if: "Tequila" is your middle name.
Bad if: You don't believe in cleanses, because your liver will need it.

JTHETZEL/FLICKR

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Travel tips

On the road ... the safe way

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Worrying about personal safety is not at the top of everyone's holiday planning checklist, but one incident can ruin your vacation. Here are a few suggestions to ensure you return home safe and sound.

The public and transient nature of a hotel makes it an attractive place to commit petty crime, so be smart. If you are travelling alone, ask for a room close to the elevator.

Do not answer the door to an unexpected guest. If they claim to be a hotel employee, call the front desk to verify.

Use the Do Not Disturb sign if want strangers to think you are in-house. Ask if there is valet parking and use it.

Avoid large gatherings. Whether it is a celebration, rally or protest, pickpockets like to blend into a crowd as they search for unsuspecting tourists. If alcohol is involved and the mood gets heated, events with a mob-like mentality can escalate into a riot. Having your wallet lifted can quickly become the least of your problems.

Be wary of new friends. Without a doubt meeting people is one of the best parts of travelling, but not everyone has your best interests at heart. Keep conversations light and do not offer up any personal information, such as where you are staying or your cabin number.

Leave the bling at home. Valuable jewelry only serves to draw attention to yourself. If you absolutely need to bring that favourite ring or bracelet along, wear them only in appropriate settings and otherwise leave them in the room. Most up-scale chain hotels now offer personal safes in their guestrooms.

Avoid hitting the road. Car accidents are the number one cause of overseas injuries for travellers. Consider taking public transit when you can. If you do need to drive, follow the rules of the road and avoid night driving. The laws and cultural norms around drinking and driving are different in countries outside of North America.

Speaking of alcohol, drink responsibly. Its fine to let your hair down on vacation, but being on holiday is not a license to be loud and obnoxious.

The bottom line, take the same precautions as you would at home.

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Where the ladies at? Try Bermuda

Island escape.
This small northern Caribbean destination is the perfect spot to leave the stress of home behind

KATHY BUCKWORTH
life@metronews.ca

Sun, spa and shopping. The perfect girls getaway trifecta can be found on the island of Bermuda. Only 42 square kilometres in area, this northern Caribbean destination is a quick trip from Toronto but a long, long way from the routine of kids, work and making dinner.

Bermuda has two distinct precincts: Hamilton and St. George's. Hamilton offers up high street shopping and a wide selection of restaurants. The British influence is heavily felt throughout, including the micro Marks & Spencer store, a favourite for visitors and ex-pats. The Fairmont Hamilton Princess is centrally located, and provides accommodation within three main lodge-style buildings.

The two pools and hot tubs are perfectly situated for an expansive view of the Atlantic Ocean and the island itself. Poolside at the Fairmont Princess in Hamilton Bermuda is a relaxing way to unwind after touring the shops of its quaint downtown.

A free ferry service is offered to residents of the Fairmont Princess across to the Fairmont Southampton. Upon landing, the hotel's flagship restaurant, Ocean Club, has a menu that takes full advantage of the wide variety of seafood available, including the local specialty, rockfish. A trolley bus is at the ferry to meet passengers, who take a five-minute ride up the hill to the main building, home to the acclaimed Willow-stream spa, a favourite for pampered perfection.

After a spa treatment, guests are welcome to slide into the outdoor hot tubs or take a swim in the indoor pool. Wait staff are more than happy to serve up nibbles and the cocktail of your choice, while you lounge in the sun and take in the vista.

Visiting the island during the Bermuda Triangle Challenge Race (run every January) brings a physical fitness element to an escape. The challenge includes the International Mile starting and finishing on the main street of Hamilton, the 10k run and walk the next day, and a half marathon to complete the triangle.

Runners and walkers alike wind their way around the beautiful vistas and it isn't uncommon to see them stop to take pictures along the route.

On the other side of the island, the town of St. George's offers up authentic island goods in a small and easily walkable shopping district. "Random Acts of Knitting" can be found on light poles and palm trees, which add to the vibrant colours of the town, already populated with brightly painted buildings.

Lunch at local favourite Wahoo's provides for a great taste of the island with a daily menu, but most often features rockfish, done in inventive sauces and styles. Segway tours are available, and the town hall is open to the public, and has a remnant from the past present, — the gallows that are still standing in the town square.

WestJet flies to St. Lucia from Toronto three times a week. For information on Fairmonts in Bermuda, visitfairmont.com/Bermuda.

Sun and azure waters. What more could a girl ask for? ALL PHOTOS: KATHY BUCKWORTH

Relax in the jacuzzi at the Fairmont Southampton.

Keep an eye out for "Random Acts of Knitting" in St. George's.

And for the boys...

It's not just about the women; Bermuda is a favourite of men as well, with its many golf courses and rum tastings. Gosling's Rum has been around since 1806, and offers tours to see how its famous Black Seal rum is made, and of course, tasted. This is an essential ingredient in the island's signature drink, the "Dark and Stormy". Visit goslingsrums.com for more information.

Turtle Hill Golf Club, conveniently located at the Fairmont Southampton, offers a challenging 18 par three hole course set amongst the natural beauty and changing elevation of the island. Lessons are available for beginners, as well as bag storage and club rentals. For those wanting a longer game, visits to Port Royal, Riddell's Bay or Belmont Hills (all championship courses) can be organized by the hotel's Golf Concierge. fairmontgolf.com

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Salad that packs a protein punch without meat: Hearty Grain & Quinoa

Edamame, grains and cheese ensure this unusual and refreshing salad has a main course level of protein.

1. Bring medium saucepan of water to a boil. Add edamame and corn. Reduce heat to medium; simmer 3 to 4 minutes. Drain; set aside to cool.

2. Meanwhile, gently squeeze pouch all over to break the rice apart. Tear top corners of pouch about 1/2 inch (1 cm). Place pouch, upright, in the microwave and heat on high for 1 minute and 30 seconds. Let stand in microwave 1 to 2 minutes. Caution: Pouch will be hot.

3. Carefully remove from microwave, holding sides. Pour into a bowl, stir and set aside to cool.

4. In small bowl, whisk together shallot, lemon juice, oil and pepper until combined.

5. Add edamame, corn, tomatoes and feta cheese to cooled rice mixture. Drizzle dressing over top; toss lightly to combine.

NEWS CANADA/ PC.CA

Ingredients

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen edamame
- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen corn
- 1 pkg (250 g) PC Blue Menu Whole Grain Brown Rice with Lentils and Quinoa Blend
- 1 shallot, minced
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) fresh lemon juice
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) omega oil
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup (250 ml) cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) drained and crumbled light feta cheese in brine

This recipe serves four. NEWS CANADA

Drink of the Week

Tropical Peace Breeze Smoothie

Dreaming of warmer weather? Make this snack that features peaches, ginger and coconut water.

- 1 (14 oz/398 ml) can California Cling Peaches in fruit juices from concentrate
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) coconut water or plain or vanilla almond milk
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) Greek vanilla, honey or peach yogurt, preferably 0%
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) ginger
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) nutmeg
- Honey or agave syrup

Drain peaches, reserving 2 tbsp (30 ml) juice. Place peaches, reserved peach juice, coconut water or almond milk, yogurt, vanilla, ginger and nutmeg in a blender. Blend until smooth. If you wish, sweeten with honey or agave syrup.

NEWS CANADA/ CALCLINGPEACH.CA

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If you don't know much about the forest products industry and its career opportunities, no one could blame you.

It's a sector that has flown under the radar for much of the last decade, losing as many as 70,000 jobs in the wake of a stronger Canadian dollar, changes in the global economy, the increasing prevalence of digital media, and the U.S. housing market collapse and subsequent recession in 2008.

More recently, however, it seems as though the industry's fortunes are changing.

There is increased global demand for traditional Canadian wood and paper products, and the innovative new technologies being developed here are capturing the attention of people around the world.

The only thing holding it back now, though, is a looming talent shortage.

Feeling lost in a web of we'll-let-you-knows? Your prospects might just be looking up. ISTOCK

Why the forest products industry needs you

According to a report released by the Forest Products Sector Council (FPSC) in 2011, it is estimated that more than one third of the industry's aging workforce — about 50,000 people — will leave within the next 10 years.

"It's hard to imagine that we're facing labour challenges after shedding so many jobs," says Jim Farrell, Executive Director of the FPSC, but the industry's long-standing public perception and image problems, coupled with its current demographics, mean there just aren't enough people to replace all of the baby boomers who are slated to retire.

We want you!

The number of young people working in the sector is at a historical low compared to the overall workforce, so it may need to hire as many as 120,000 people by the year 2020.

The number of young people working in the sector is at a historical low compared to the overall workforce, so it may need to hire as many as 120,000 people by the year 2020.

About one third of forest products employers say they are already making significant efforts to target youth for recruitment into the sector, with many more sure to follow.

Beyond lumber, pulp and paper

Canada's forest products sector is carving a new path for itself that goes far beyond the traditional industry staples of lumber and paper.

"There's more effort being made by companies as well as government to accelerate transformation in the industry," Farrell says. "We currently have eight research networks with 27 universities across the country."

Those research networks are developing products such as antibiotics and pharmaceuticals, biofuels and bioplastics, glues, enzymes and paints, artificial flavours and fertilizers — all derived from Canadian wood, which is a completely renewable resource.

"This is the kind of thinking that, within 10 years, could put Canada's forest products industry in a fundamentally different place than it was before," Jim says.

"We're going to need a whole bunch of smart, educated people to enter the industry."

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‘A woman, Métis and a bioengineer’

She’s a natural. Baillie Redfern is learning to plant the seed of health in her community and beyond

DANIELLE LORENZ
TalentEgg.ca

When someone thinks of the forest they’re often limited to only think about the trees and the animals that live there. Baillie Redfern, a MSc student of the University of British Columbia’s Genome Science and Technology program on the other hand, sees medicines.

Having grown up as a member of the Painted Feather Woodland Métis Tribe in Ontario, Redfern discusses her education and how it relates to the forest products industry:

Can you tell me a little bit about what you’ve been studying?

I work in the field of medicinal plant genomics — specifically I work on bioproducts from balsam fir. Coniferous trees are a rich source of metabolites that can be used to make higher value bio-products. To address the significant market demand, there is a large scientific interest in the identification of the genes and enzymes for the production of natural products with cost effective technologies.

Prior to attending UBC, I was studying biopharmaceutical science at The University of Ottawa. While studying in Ottawa I had the opportunity to work with The Cree of Eeyou Istchee (CEI), a James Bay subpopulation of the Cree Nation, which is Canada’s largest Aboriginal group. The CEI possess a wealth of traditional ethnobotanical knowledge and continue to use medicinal plants today. I worked collaboratively with the elders and Cree Health Board to investigate traditional plants to treat diabetes.

The living planet can bring with it curious shapes and bright colours, but it can also bring us cures. ISTOCK

It is estimated that 20 per cent of the Aboriginal population lives with diabetes and the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes is three to five times the national average. My research focused on the safety and efficacy of traditional medicines for treating symptoms associated with diabetes.

Do you feel that there is a connection to your academic work and your identity as a Métis?

Yes. However, there is not a direct connection. For example, I am not investigating which trees make the best fiddles. Rather, I am defining what it means to be Métis to myself, my family, my community and the non-Aboriginal population by participating in an untraditional field of research.

I want to show everyone that Métis culture is not dead, static or stereotypical. The Métis Peoples are diverse, strong and proud, with a history and a future. I am a woman, Métis and a bioengineer.

Where do you see yourself going after you complete your degree?

My goal is to open a health and wellness centre, which integrates modern medicine with traditional indigenous medicines. The current healthcare infrastructure views modern-western practitioners, traditional healers and naturopathic doctors in opposition of one another, when in fact they all strive to bring better health to the population. Currently, there’s a deficit in the health care system, it devalues the importance of diversity of medicinal knowledge. The health centre will be a place where all people can get modern medical services, with informed access to traditional medicines while experiencing a culturally respectful environment.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA’S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Seeing the forest for the fables. Myths about this ever-changing industry

Let’s face it: the forest products sector hasn’t always had the best image. After all, it’s difficult to think of cutting down trees as a good thing.

But while this industry could have just continued managing its bad reputation, it has instead decided to do something major about it. Last spring, the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) unveiled Vision 2020, a new industry-led vision that outlines where the forest industry sees itself by the year 2020 — powering Canada’s new economy by being green, innovative and open to the world.

“The industry has changed dramatically — we have gone through some really tough times, but we are shaping a new path for our future that is extremely appealing,” says Catherine Cobden, Executive Vice President of FPAC.

“We have to get over the old images of the industry.”

Some picture the forest product industry as a major polluter, but it has, in fact, reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent since 1990. ISTOCK

Myth: cutting down trees to make wood products is destroying our forests

Reality: forest products companies today are committed to harvesting legally, regenerating harvested trees promptly, reducing waste and recycling, and welcoming independent scrutiny. Less than one per cent of Canada’s total forest area is harvested each year, and about 650 million seedlings are planted annually to ensure regeneration.

“The Canadian forest industry has more third-party certified land than anywhere else in the world by a massive margin,” Cobden says. “We’ve fully embraced this approach of following the highest standards of sustainable forest management practices.”

CASSANDRA JOWETT, TALENTEGG.CA

Student voice

Recruiters, be reasonable with your expectations

Timothy Boodram
Graduate
New media
University of Toronto

TalentEgg.ca

I am a recent graduate who is finding the transition to work difficult. I have been applying for work for almost a year now and have had little luck. I’ve been interviewed twice, but haven’t been able to land the job. For one job, I had made it through three rounds of interviews over the span of a month and a half, but they said they were looking for someone with more direct experience in a certain role. I think my age was a big factor.

In the meantime, I’ve been trying to keep busy by coding websites, but nothing paid.

What I’m doing now

I’m keeping busy doing some personal work to strengthen my portfolio and I’ve been waking up every morning and scouring the Internet for possible job openings.

I’ve been considering new career options since I have been an unemployed graduate for almost a year. I’ve also applied to grad school in September as a backup.

My recommendations for employers, career centres and schools

Employers in the area of web design/programming really need to focus on making more accurate job listings.

I found several listings that are advertised as being “new graduate” positions. However, they often list qualifications that no new graduate could possibly possess.

Often I see posts requiring knowledge of 10 plus programming languages and five plus years of experience. From speaking with employers, they often say they do this to receive confident applicants only. From speaking with students and graduates, it’s very intimidating and discouraging for us because we all feel very unqualified.

New graduate positions need to cater to new graduates. Offer us a position where we can help, and provide a way for us to learn on the job.

My advice for other students and recent graduates

The majority of employed graduates from my graduating year got their job through someone they know. It’s all about who you know, and less about what you know (although this is still important to KEEP that job). Network, network, network.

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Toronto Maple Leafs goalie Ben Scrivens makes a save against Washington Capital Matt Hendricks on Tuesday in Washington. GREG FIUME/GETTY IMAGES

Leafs loving life on road in early going

NHL. Toronto ends two-game losing streak against slumping Washington

James Van Riemsdyk scored his fifth and sixth goals of the season Tuesday night, while Korbinian Holzer scored on just the fourth shot of his NHL career, leading the Toronto Maple Leafs to a 3-2 victory over the slumping Washington Capitals.

Ben Scrivens made 24 saves for the Maple Leafs, who broke a two-game losing streak and maintained their road-ice advantage in the early part of the season. Toronto is 4-1 on the road — and only 1-4 at home.

Marcus Johansson and Mike Ribeiro scored power-play goals for the Capitals, who have lost eight of 10 to start the season and sit at the bottom of the Eastern Conference standings. Two-time league MVP Alex Ovechkin was held to one assist and has only two goals and three assists on the season.

Michal Neuvirth made 18 saves for Washington, but he allowed Holzer to go five-hole with a slapshot from near the blue-line midway through the second period, giving the Maple Leafs a 3-1 lead and the German defenceman his first NHL goal in his fifth game in the league.

The Capitals pulled within one again on Ribeiro's power-play goal with 13:13 to play in the third period.

Scrivens, getting the call over James Reimer as the Maple Leafs played the second night of a back-to-back, stopped another drive from Ribeiro a few minutes later and raised his arm to stop a shot from Tom Poti late in the period as Toronto held on for the win.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Tuesday

Leafs	Capitals
3	2

CFL

Argos release receiver Rambo

The Toronto Argonauts released wide receiver Ken-Yon Rambo on Tuesday.

Rambo signed with the Argos in August 2012 and played in only five regular-season games but did not dress during the team's playoff run and eventual Grey Cup championship.

The 34-year-old recorded 10 catches for 124 yards during those five games with Toronto.

Prior to the Argos, he spent seven seasons with the Calgary Stampeders before the team released him in June 2012.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skiing

Crash costs Vonn the rest of season

The U.S. Ski Team says Lindsey Vonn has torn the ACL and MCL in her right knee and also has a broken bone after a horrific crash on Tuesday at the world championships.

The team says Vonn will undergo surgery and miss the rest of this season but is expected to return in time for the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Vonn lost balance on her right leg while landing a jump, flipped over in the air and landed on her backside as she smashed through a gate before coming to a halt.

Vonn received medical treatment on the slope for 12 minutes before being taken by helicopter to a hospital in Schladming.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bargnani returns, but Johnson remains anchor

NBA. Raptors coach now armed with more options in the frontcourt

A plethora of options is now open for Raptors coach Dwane Casey with the impending return of Andrea Bargnani.

After missing 26 games with elbow and wrist woes, Bargnani should be back for Wednesday's home game with the Boston Celtics, presenting his coach with another interesting piece to plug into a game.

But whatever Casey does from night to night — use Bargnani as prototypical stretch four who extends defences, put him on the block defensively to battle big centres — the anchor will always be the versatile and unsung Amir Johnson.

It could be Johnson and Bargnani, it could be Johnson and Jonas Valanciunas, it could be Bargnani and Rudy Gay; except for the 10 or 12 minutes a night when Johnson has to take a breather, he's going to be the constant.

"He's the vet we have in there that everything goes around. The numbers say it, my eyes see it," Casey said on Tuesday. "Whether it's JV in the middle or Andrea and Amir, he's that important to our defensive focus. He's the anchor for everybody back there.

"He allows us to guard different people different ways. Any combination with Amir in there is good for us."

Now, Johnson cannot play every minute of every game, which gets to Casey's other dilemma. Neither Valanciunas or Bargnani can be considered top shelf defenders, although the coach did laud Bargnani for his ability to guard one-on-one in the post and there will be times when Gay is too undersized to play power forward. That's where the juggling act would truly begin.

"Andrea's been out almost two months, JV is still getting his sea legs back and Rudy is new to the scene," Casey said.

"It's going to be a challenge." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Raptors Andrea Bargnani, left, and Jonas Valanciunas defend against Utah Jazz forward Paul Millsap at the Air Canada Centre on Nov. 12. Bargnani and Valanciunas will likely see more action with Amir Johnson on the court than with each other. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLB. Jays' State of the Franchise event no longer a laughing matter

"Which team poses the greatest threat to your winning of the World Series?"

The question would have been a joke any other year, but on Tuesday it was asked in earnest and nobody was laughing.

As expected, it was a very different "State of the Franchise" event for the Blue Jays at the Rogers Centre on Tuesday evening, as the club hosted its annual reception for season-ticket holders.

Roughly 1,500 people attended this year, making it the largest crowd since the inaugural event in 2002.

"It certainly has a different feel, doesn't it?" team president Paul Beeston said, by way of introduction to the tightly packed crowd spread across four sections in front of the home dugout.

After the club's most dramatic off-season in two decades — in which team payroll has grown by half with the acquisition of former all-stars R.A. Dickey, Jose Reyes, Josh Johnson, Mark Buehrle and Melky Cabrera — the event was more of a love-in for fans than a chance to grill team brass.

PED allegations

GM Alex Anthopoulos said there was "no new information" regarding Melky Cabrera in last week's report by the Miami New Times, which also implicated Alex Rodriguez, among others. He added he is confident Cabrera will not face any further suspension.

On the order of the starting rotation, manager John Gibbons announced that R.A. Dickey will get the start on opening day, followed by Brandon Morrow, Mark Buehrle, Josh Johnson and Rickey Romero.

He explained that the reigning Cy Young winner should get the first start, and he liked the mix of righties versus lefties and hard-throwers versus soft-throwers.

Gibbons also said Casey Janssen has earned the closer's job, and that Sergio Santos remains a question mark after missing almost all of last season. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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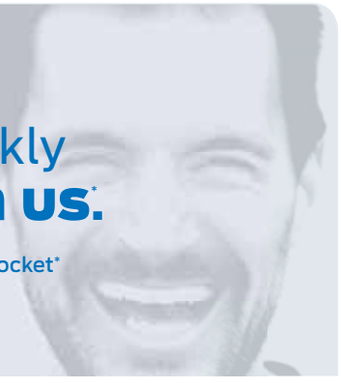

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Vehicle(s) may be shown with optional equipment. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled at any time without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. *Purchase a new 2013 [Focus SE Sedan; Escape SE FWD 1.6L EcoBoost®/F-150 STX Super Cab 4x2] for [$19,878/$28,328/$23,530] after Total Manufacturer Rebate of [$500/$0/$7,500] deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. †Until February 28, 2013, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2013 Ford [Fusion (excluding Hybrid, HEV, PHEV)/ [Taurus (excluding SE), Escape (excluding SE), Escape (excluding S)/[Focus (excluding S, ST and BEV), Fiesta (excluding S)], models for a maximum of [48]/[60]/[72] months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $30,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/ 60/ 72 months, monthly payment is $625.00/ $500.00/ $416.67, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $30,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. **Until February 28, 2013, lease a new 2013 [Escape SE FWD 1.6L Ecoboost®/F-150 STX Super Cab 4x2] model and get 1.49%/2.99%]APR for up to [48/36] months on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Lease the above models with a value of [$28,328/$23,530] at [1.49%/2.99%] APR for up to [48/36] months with [$1,999/$0] down or equivalent trade in, monthly payment is [$328/$344], total lease obligation is [$17,742/$12,384], optional buyout is [$11,717/$12,812]. Cost of leasing is [$1,128/$1,621]. Taxes payable on full amount of lease financing price after any price adjustment is deducted. Additional payments required for PPSA, registration, security deposit, NSF fees (where applicable), excess wear and tear, and late fees. Some conditions and mileage restrictions apply. A charge of [1¢/1¢/1¢] cents per km over kilometrage restriction applies, plus applicable taxes [Escape/ [F-Series]. ††Until February 28, 2013, receive [0%/1.49%/4.99%] APR purchase financing on new 2013 [Focus SE Sedan/Escape SE FWD 1.6L EcoBoost®/F-150 STX Super Cab 4x2] models for a maximum of 72 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Get the above for [$19,878/$28,328/$23,530] purchase financed at [0%/1.49%/4.99%] APR for 72 months, with [$0/$1,999/$0] down payment, monthly payment is [$128/$178/$175], cost of borrowing is [$0/$1,213/$3,754] or APR of [0%/1.49%/4.99%] and total to be repaid is [$19,878/$29,767/$27,300]. Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. 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For customers making monthly payments, the first three bi-weekly payment amounts will be calculated by multiplying the monthly payment by 12, dividing the resulting amount by 26, and multiplying the resulting amount by three. In most cases, the customer will be responsible for making all scheduled payments in accordance with his or her purchase or lease agreement but will receive a cheque from the dealer for an amount equivalent to the first three bi-weekly payments. (Including tax, up to the Maximum Amount. This means by which the Offer will be reduced if the customer's monthly payment is less than the Maximum Amount. The Offer is not available on the purchase or lease of any vehicle ordered after February 28, 2013. Some conditions apply. See your participating dealer for details. **Until February 28, 2013, receive $2,000/ $2,500/ $3,500/ $5,000/ $6,500/ $7,000/$7,500/$9,000 in Manufacturer Rebates with the purchase or lease of a new 2013 Focus (excluding S, ST, BEV), Fiesta, F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 (Value Leader)/ Focus S, Mustang V6 Coupe, Taurus SE, Edge FWD (excluding SE), E-Series Transit Connect (excluding electric), F-350 to F-550 Chassis Cab / Mustang V6 Premium / Mustang GT/ F-250 to F-450 Super Duty Chassis Cab(s)/ F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2), non 5.0L/ F-150 Regular Cab and Super Crew non 5.0L/ F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew 5.0L – all Raptor, GT500, BOSS302, Transit Connect EV and Medium Truck models excluded. This offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Manufacturer Rebates are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. **Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2013 [Focus 2.0L, I4 5 speed Manual/Escape FWD 1.6L GTDI I4 6 Speed Auto/F-150 4x2 3.7L V6 6 speed SST]. Fuel consumption ratings based on Government of Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary. ***Program in effect from January 15, 2013 to April 1, 2013 (the "Program Period"). To qualify, customer must turn in a 2006 model year or older vehicle that is in running condition (able to start and move and without missing parts) and has been properly registered/plated or insured for the last 3 months (the "Criteria"). Eligible customers will receive [$500]/[$1,000]/[$2,500]/[$3,000] towards the purchase or lease of a new 2012 or 2013 Ford [C-Max, Fusion Hybrid, Fusion Energi]/[Fusion (excluding S), Taurus (excluding SE), Mustang (excluding Value Leader), Escape (excluding XLT I4 Manual), Transit Connect (excluding FW, Edge (excluding SE), Flex (excluding SE), Explorer (excluding base)]/[F-150 (excluding Regular Cab 4x2 XL), Expedition, E-Series]/[F250-550] – all Fiesta, Focus, Raptor, GT500, BOSS 302, Transit Connect EV, Medium Truck, Value Leader and Lincoln models excluded (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Taxes payable before Rebate amount is deducted. To qualify: (i) customer must, at the time of the Eligible Vehicle sale, provide the Dealer with (a) sufficient proof of Criteria, and (b) signed original ownership transferring customer vehicle to the Authorized Recycler; and (ii) Eligible Vehicle must be purchased, leased, or factory ordered during the Program Period. Offer only available to residents of Canada and payable in Canadian dollars. Offer is transferable only to persons domiciled with the owner of the recycled vehicle. Offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Offer not available on any vehicle receiving CPA, GPC, Commercial Connection or Daily Rental Rebates and the Commercial Fleet Rebate Program (CFP). Customers eligible for CFP are not eligible for this offer. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ^Max. horsepower of 411 and max. torque of 434 on F-150 6.2L V8 engine. Class is Full-Size Pickups under 8,500 lb GVWR vs. 2012/2013 comparable competitor engines. ^^When properly equipped. Max. towing of 11,300 lb with 3.5L EcoBoost 4x2 and 4x4 and 6.2L 2 valve V8 4x2 engines. Max. payload of 3,120 lb with 5.0L Ti-VCT V8 engine. Class is Full-Size Pickups under 8,500 lb GVWR vs. 2012/2013 competitors. ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. "SIRIUS", the SIRIUS dog logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SIRIUS XM Radio Inc. and are used under license. ©2013 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

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The 2013 Mini Paceman

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

By comparison

1 LR Evoque Coupe
Base price: $62,900

2 Volkswagen GTI
Base price: $30,750

Fuel economy

The little hatchback's fuel-consumption estimate of 7.4 l/100 km in the city and 5.7 on the highway (for the base 1.6) is impressive. Note that all Paceman engines require more expensive premium fuel that offsets some of the perceived efficiency.

It's very roomy in the trunk.

2013 Mini Paceman

- **Type.** Two-door, front-, AWD-compact hatchback
- **Engine (hp).** 1.6-litre DOHC I4 (121); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (181-218)
- **Transmission.** Six-speed manual; six-speed automatic (opt.)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $28,550

Engine

Under the hood it's a case of if you've seen one Mini you've seen them all as the available engines are offered in all seven Mini body styles. The base Cooper's 1.6-litre four-cylinder makes 121 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque, while the optional turbo-charged 1.6 in the Cooper S ups those numbers to 181/177.

Design

The tough-dude front end design of the Paceman includes a grille that makes the vehicle look as though it's frowning at the world, but it surely gives it character. Other distinctive characteristics encompass teardrop-shaped tail lights and rear fenders bulge out slightly from the quarter panels.

Review. Somehow Mini found yet another niche

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

They might all, literally, be Mini, but BMW's Britain-based division is expanding in a big way. The latest edition is the Paceman, which is a two-door hatchback (based on the Countryman four-door model) that arrives this spring.

Where the Countryman appears as a conservatively styled wagon, the Paceman's sportier looks hint at its more playful nature around town, on the open road, or over rougher terrain with its available all-wheel-drive. You would think the Paceman's sloping roofline and liftgate would adversely affect stowage space.

Surprisingly, that's not the case, with the Paceman surrendering only about six per cent volume with the rear seats in place and about eight per cent when they're folded flat.

The interior includes four adjustable bucket seats — also adapted from the Countryman — that are especially attractive.

Of course the Mini's signature round dash gauges are very much in evidence, although not quite as in-your-face as those installed in the basic Mini Cooper or Mini Clubman. Rumour has it the next-generation Mini will adopt a more conventional layout, which would likely be a step in the right direction.

What is decidedly non-conventional is the Paceman's illuminated centre-rail floor console to which you can attach a cellphone base, cup holders, sunglasses case and other accessories. And it also comes equipped with the usual gadgets and extras.

The Paceman's unique mix of sporty style and practicality, with an available side order of rough-road ruggedness, makes it perhaps the best reason yet to consider parking a Mini in your driveway.

The interior is simple, futuristic and comes with the signature round gauges.

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The Yada Digital Baby Camera/Monitor.

The Mastercraft Pitcart would fit in at a NASCAR race. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

It's a time-honoured tradition: improving and personalizing your vehicle through gadgets.

The tradition was founded, one could argue, with the Ford Model T.

"A Ford was born naked as a baby, and a flourishing industry grew up out of correcting its rare deficiencies and combating its fascinating diseases," wrote E.B. White of the Model T, in his famous essay, Farewell My Lovely, first published in the May 16, 1936 edition of The New Yorker.

He began his essay by lamenting the new Sears Roebuck catalogue, which by that point only had one page devoted to Model T accessories and parts. This was in contrast to the "spring times when the Ford gadget section was larger than men's clothing, almost as large as household furnishings."

Of course, back in those days, a Model T gadget could be something like a rear view mirror, a foot accelerator to replace the standard hand accelerator, or a tire patch kit. According to White, every Model T owner back then "was capable of putting on a patch, expected to, and did have to."

Now we're expected to be drinking coffee and responding to text messages while driving.

In fact, Fiat's European division has come up with the world's first in-car espresso maker. Fiat 500L buyers in Europe can order this maker directly from Fiat. It slides into the centre console and makes nice, hot espresso whenever you want, as long as the 500L is in park. It doesn't look like we'll get it in North America. We still don't get a lot of the interesting and sporting vehicle and powertrain options the Europeans get — now we have to add portable espresso machines to the off-limits list. Damn you old world power.

But just as well, as there are lots of other new gadgets that need our attention.

I recently attended Canadian Tire's press event, highlighting some of its new automotive products for the upcoming spring season. A lot of car cleaning and man-cave garage type stuff. A lot of electronic stuff.

My favourite garage/tool item is the Mastercraft Pitcart — a huge toolbox on wheels worthy of a NASCAR team.

But nothing says gadget like an electronic gadget. Electronic gadgets that further connectivity, safety, navigation, entertainment, etc., are exploding in number these days.

Mandi Paquin-Johnson, Canadian Tire's car category buyer, told us that the Yada Digital Baby Camera/Monitor is one of the bigger electronic gadget hits over the last year. The monitor mounts on the front dash, so you never have to swivel your head to see how junior's doing in the backseat. "Everyone who's tried one loves it," says Paquin-Johnson.

Because the electronic industry moves faster than the automotive industry, I don't think there will ever be a shortage of such new gadgets that people will want to incorporate into their driving experiences. This should ensure that the gadget tradition would continue to thrive, even though cars no longer come from the factory, as the Model T once did, "naked as a baby."

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2013 Ram 1500 Quad Cab Laramie 4x4 with optional equipment shown.§

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Wise customers read the fine print: •, *, ∞, †, § The 2013 Ram Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after January 8, 2013. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,500–$1,595), air tax (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. •$26,495 Purchase Price applies to the new 2013 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (23A+AGR) only and includes $9,250 Consumer Cash Discount. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select 2013 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. †4.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the new 2013 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (23A+AGR) model to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Auto Finance and Ally Credit Canada. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. See your retailer for complete details. Example: 2013 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (23A+AGR) with a Purchase Price of $26,495 (including Consumer Cash Discount) financed at 4.49% over 96 months with $0 down payment, equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $152 with a cost of borrowing of $5,092 and a total obligation of $31,586.78. §2013 Ram 1500 Crew Cab Laramie 4x4 with optional equipment shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $38,755. ≠Based on *Automotive News* classification and 2013 Ram 1500 3.6 L V6 4x2 and 8-speed transmission. 11.4 L/100 km (25 MPG) City and 7.8 L/100 km (36 MPG) Highway. Based on 2013 EnerGuide fuel consumption guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. Ask your retailer for complete EnerGuide information. ΩBased on 2012 *Automotive News* full-size pickup segmentation and competitive information. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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Parts Department

Whether it's a birthday gift for a friend or loved one or just something for yourself, here are some ideas for unique automotive-inspired presents.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Lego 4x4 takes shape

Most kids actually have more fun building their toys than playing with the finished product. That has been the secret to Lego's success for nearly 100 years and that's why kids of all ages will enjoy building the 4x4 Crawler. The motorized kit, one of Lego's two-in-one Technic products, includes an infrared remote control and receiver that both steers and directs power to all four of its big knobby off-road-style wheels. And of course being a Lego product, you can configure the Crawler to suit your imagination. It sells for $200 and you can view the entire Technic series and order at shop.lego.com.

The need for speed

A must-see event for anyone interested in auto-racing history is the Goodwood Festival of Speed held on July 11 to 14 at the Earl of March's 4,800-hectare estate in Sussex, England. This year marks Goodwood's 20th anniversary and will showcase "the biggest, best, fastest, loudest and most outrageous vehicles of all time". You can see classic racing cars from the early 20th century right up to the present day take on the mile-long course, occasionally piloted by the actual drivers that made the cars famous. You'll also have unfettered access to the pits, where you can rub shoulders with some of the greats. A four-day pass sells for about $200 at goodwood.co.uk/

Tools to go

Auto mechanics and those who enjoy wrenching on their own vehicles usually have big, heavy tool chests in their garages. However they tend not to be very portable if you need to transport your tools somewhere else. The Beta C41H Tool Trolley just might help out. The steel-and-plastic rolling storage unit weighs 21 kilograms empty and is 91 centimetres tall by 53 centimetres wide and 25 centimetres deep. The top portion can also be detached from the base and used as a hand-carried box. Visit: pegasus-autoracing.com to order one.

Blow up jack

Getting a flat tire or being stuck up to the axles in mud or snow isn't any fun, especially if you're in the middle of nowhere. Usually, the ground isn't stable enough for a regular jack to support the weight of a vehicle, and that's where the Bushranger X-Jack comes in handy. The product is essentially a heavy-duty rubber blow-up bag that you place beneath your vehicle between the front and rear wheels to create up to 90 centimetres of ground clearance, which is enough for you to install a spare tire. The 2,000-kilogram-lift-capacity X-Jack can be inflated by hooking it up to the exhaust pipe or with a portable compressor. The Bushranger X-Jack sells for about $250 US from arbusa.com.

ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

Fuel for thought: The sulphur debate

Driving Force. Cleaner gas means more steps during the refining process, which can get costly. Is it worth it?

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Canadians pump more than 200 million litres of fuel into their vehicles every day, and drive a combined 325 billion kilometres each year. But compared to 20 years ago, smog-forming emissions have dropped by 90 per cent, primarily due to more efficient vehicles and cleaner fuels.

"Fuels have much less sulphur in them today," says Peter Boag, president of the Canadian Fuels Association. "This has an impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of the vehicle's emissions control systems."

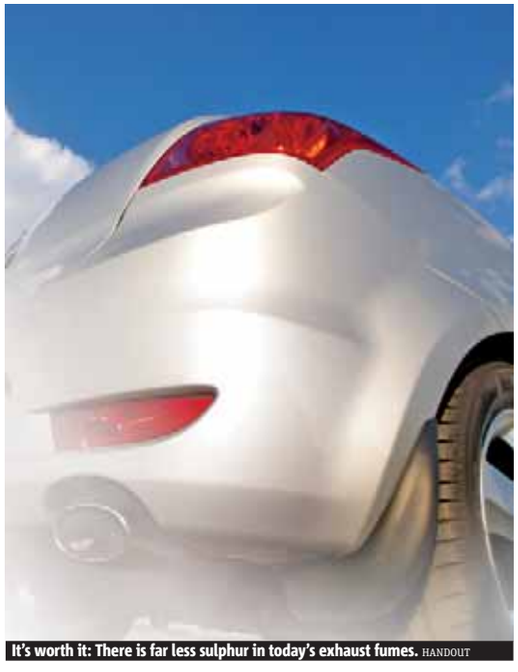
Sulphur is a chemical that's found naturally in crude petroleum. Before it's refined, crude contains some 15,000 to 18,000 parts per million (ppm) of sulphur. In the past, gasoline could still contain as much as 1,000 ppm, and in the early 1990s, Canada's average sulphur content, at 350 ppm, was one of the highest worldwide.

Starting in 2003, government regulations reduced the allowable amount to 150 ppm, with a second phase two years later further reducing it to 30 ppm.

"Today, gasoline has only three ppm on average of sulphur," Boag says. "And prior to 2007, the standard for diesel was 500 ppm, and it's now at 15 ppm. That's for on-road diesel, off-road, rail, and marine. All diesel now produced is what we call ultra-low-sulphur diesel, or ULSD.

"When you look at the growth of the heavy-duty vehicle segment over the last 10 to 15 years, that (sulphur) reduction has been an important part of emissions performance. ULSD has enabled new particulate filters that eliminate particulate matter, which is the visible pollutant (in diesel exhaust)," Boag says. Removing sulphur from gasoline doesn't affect engine performance and is strictly about the vehicle's emissions and exhaust treatment systems.

But while low-sulphur fuels may seem like a win-win, they aren't without their challenges. It's expensive to take sulphur out of crude during refining, which raises the price of production. It also requires more steps, which requires more energy. While there was a net improvement in air quality linked to the removal of sulphur in fuels, there was also a rise in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the refineries from the extra energy required to remove it.



It's worth it: There is far less sulphur in today's exhaust fumes. HANDOUT

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*No payments for 90 days (payment deferral) offer is available on all new 2013 Honda models financed between February 1st, 2013 and February 28th, 2013 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. Offer applies only to purchase finance offers on approved credit through Honda Financial Services Inc. Monthly payments are deferred for 90 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After 60 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will be required to repay the principal and interest monthly over the term of the contract, but not until 90 days after the contract date. Offer ends February 28th, 2013 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Ω Limited time lease offers on any new 2013 Honda Odyssey LX (Model RL5H2DE) // 2013 Honda Pilot LX 2WD (Model YF3H2DE) models available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: based on a 2013 Honda Pilot LX 2WD (Model YF3H2DE) on a 24 month term at 0.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $709.54 [includes $1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $17,028.96. 48,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. †Receive 0.99% purchase financing on any new 2013 Honda Accord Sedan and Coupe // 2013 Honda Crosstour // 2013 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) // 2013 Honda Pilot LX 2WD (Model YF3H2DE) // 2013 Honda Odyssey LX (Model RL5H2DE) // 2013 Honda Ridgeline models for a maximum of 24 // 24 // 24 // 36 // 24 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative Finance example: based on a 2013 Honda Accord Sport Sedan (Model CR2E5DE) // 2013 Honda Pilot LX 2WD (Model YF3H2DE) on a 24 // 36 month term at 0.99% // 0.99% APR, complete price of $27,265 // $36,765 [includes $1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5). Excludes taxes, license, insurance, and registration]. Cost of borrowing is $281.96 // $563.76 for a total finance obligation of $27,546.96 // $37,328.76. Down payment or equivalent trade-in on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Honda Financial Services Inc. **$2,000 // $2,000 // $1,000 // $500 customer cash incentive is valid on any new 2013 Honda Odyssey except Odyssey LX (Model RL5H2DE) // 2013 Honda Pilot except Pilot LX 2WD (Model YF3H2DE) // 2013 Honda CR-V except CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3DES) // 2013 Honda Fit except Fit DX 5MT (Model GE8G2DEX) models when registered and delivered between February 1st and February 28th, 2013. Cash incentive is available for all Honda retail customers except customers who lease or finance through Honda Financial Services Inc. at a subvented rate of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. All advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Cash incentive will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. ◆◆Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2012. ‡Does not replace the driver's responsibility to exercise due care while driving. ΔText message and e-mail functions are only compatible with certain devices.

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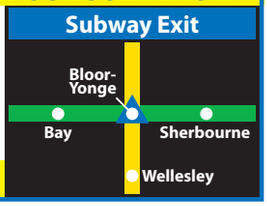

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have been extremely active mentally of late and your mind could probably use a rest. Try to treat yourself more gently over the next 24 hours. Even an Aries needs a break once in a while.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The most important thing now is that you don't change your aims unless you are certain it's the right thing to do. It is better to finish what you started, even if your passion for it is not what it once was.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Mercury, your ruler, joins forces with Neptune, planet of imagination, so you are sure to come up with some ideas. Whether they can do something for you remains to be seen. Never stop thinking.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Watch what you say today because you don't want to let slip information that others have no right to know — and which they can use against you. Be wary of people who try to talk to you about personal matters.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Your judgment could be a bit off target today, so be careful if someone approaches you with a plan to make money. It could be they are genuine but unless you are sure it might be wise to give it a miss.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Even if you are the sort of Virgo who is good at disguising feelings, you will still be a bit emotional today. Remember, it's not that others have upset you which matters but how you choose to react.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you act on impulse today, you could make a serious mistake. Then you will have to take foolish risks to try to cover up that mistake and before you know it, everything will be falling apart. Don't do it!

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will get plenty of advice from well-meaning people today, but deep down you already know what needs to be done. Stop wasting time discussing the issue and start doing the things that will change your life.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Some things are important and some things are not. Do you know which is which? No matter how much your career means to you, it is your home life you need to focus on over the next few days.

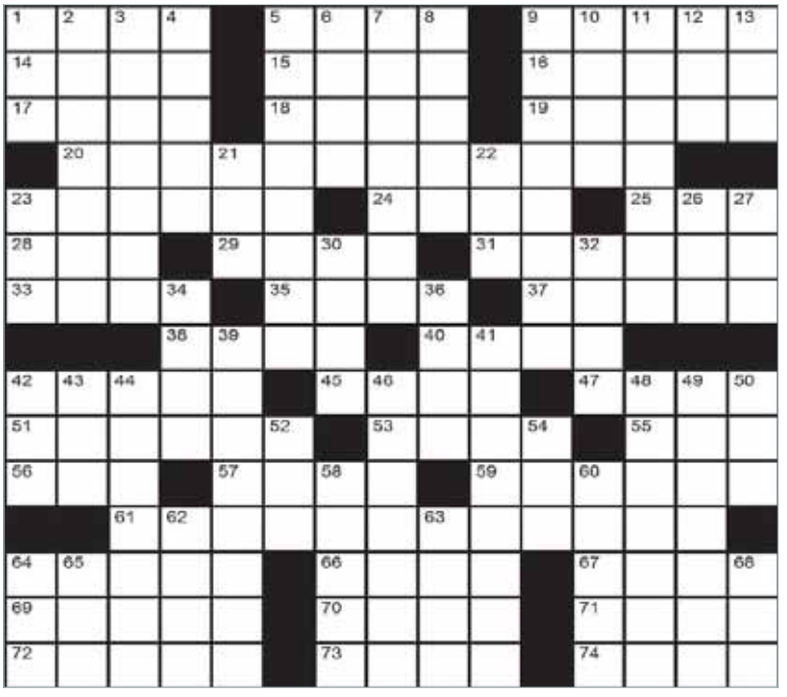
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will be rather controversial in some of the things you say over the next 24 hours, so don't be surprised if people get upset. Be that as it may, you have a duty to tell the truth as you see it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be having second thoughts about a project of some kind but if you pull out now you could lose a lot of money. Can you afford it? Also, can you afford what it might do to your reputation?

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Neptune, your ruling planet, is strong in your chart today, which means you know exactly what needs to be done. But do you have the courage to do it? If you do you will make rapid progress. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

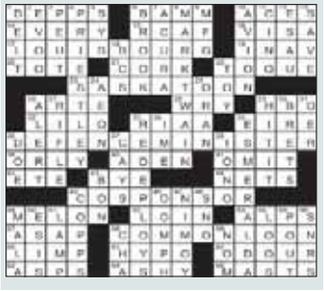
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Dot-__ (Web businesses)
5. Pelletier's skating partner
9. Calf-length pant
14. Take __ the waist, as alterations: 2 wds.
15. Do needlework
16. Utilize a crane
17. Designer Ms. Wang
18. __ _ fever (Ailed)
19. Smallest litter puppies
20. Mick E. Moose is this team's mascot: 2 wds.
23. Maple Leafs great Mr. Clark
24. Carnivore's craving
25. Energy unit
28. "__ Haw"
29. Jazz singer Ms. Fitzgerald
31. Dotted-line endorser
33. Gumbo ingredient
35. Long times
37. Foodie
38. Australian rock group
40. "Woodstock" gr.
42. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" spin-off
45. Ginger cookie
47. Consequently
51. Angel
53. Mr. Clapton
55. 'Ranch' suffix
56. Director Mr. Lee
57. Air freshener brand
59. Toronto's __ Phillips Square
61. New Brunswick, e.g.: 2 wds.
64. Paul McCartney song: "__ __ Was Lonely"
66. Jai __ (Court game)
67. Nons opposites
69. Allied beachhead site in Italy in WWII
70. Confined
71. One being taken advantage of
72. Country singer Ms. Rimes
73. 'Henn' ender (Canadian actress Jill)
74. Quiz

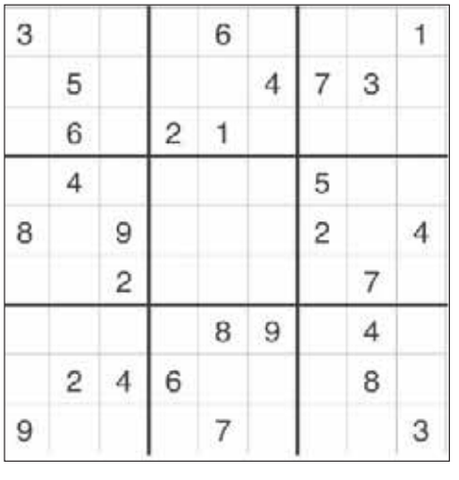
Down
1. Caesar's 104
2. Seven days: 2 wds.
3. Seafarer
4. "__ by Me" (1986)
5. Dubstep artist whose real name is Sonny Moore
6. Take _ __ (Rest)
7. Offensive __ (Football position)
8. Story, in a house, in French
9. 20th Prime Minister, Jean __
10. August: French
11. Canadian actor Gordon
12. After-Q queue
13. "__ Too Late" by Carole King
21. Maiden name indicator
22. Affirmatives, in Austria
23. Five Ws, just one
26. British R&B singer, Des'__
27. Munich's locale [abbr.]
30. Sports defeat
32. Music legend Marvin
34. Verdi opera
36. Incision leftover
39. __ Bonaparte
41. Michael J. Fox series: 2 wds.
42. Cape Town's home [acronym]
43. She-chicken
44. Wedding dress material
46. Sugarland singer Jennifer
48. Find new lodgings for
49. Some sauces
50. Suffix with 'Ball'
52. Mount __ (Sacred mountain in China)
54. Pen part
58. Severus __ ('Harry Potter' books character)
60. Freshwater fish
62. Identical
63. 'Christ' suffix (Some religious people)
64. Seasickness, __ de mer
65. Suffix with 'Meth'
68. Fixed

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	3	6	4	1	8	5	7
5	1	6	8	7	9	4	3	2
4	7	8	2	5	3	1	9	6
7	6	5	4	1	2	3	8	9
1	3	9	7	8	5	2	6	4
8	4	2	9	3	6	7	1	5
9	8	1	5	2	7	6	4	3
3	5	7	1	6	4	9	2	8
6	2	4	3	9	8	5	7	1

Today
-4°/-10°
Mainly sunny

Thursday
-2°/-10°
Flurries
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Sportage SX shown^

Sorento SX shown^

Sedona EX Luxury shown^

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CITY (A/T): 9.7L/100KM

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2013 SORENTO

HWY (A/T): 6.5L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 9.8L/100KM

7 PASSENGER SEATING AVAILABLE

AVAILABLE ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

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ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

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2012 SEDONA

HWY (A/T): 8.0L/100KM
CITY (A/T): 11.5L/100KM

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